

JERUSALEM

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TO OUR READERS:

In compliance with the Israeli military authorities, and under the guise of the much criticized emergency regulations, Al-Fajr is required to submit all material prepared for publication in this weekly, and also in the Arabic Daily and Bi-Weekly Hebrew Edition, to the Israeli censorship authorities, who use this blanket authority excessively. The material appearing on pages labeled with letters has been censored and expunged by the Israeli authorities. We found it necessary and relevant to publish it on these pages in the foreign edition.

Livia
best to all the friends

For one-and-a-half years Livia Rokach has been contributing to Al Fajr English, on a voluntary basis, news and analysis of the aftermath of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. By telephone, telex and letters she brought us information about the occupation of Lebanon that did not and could not appear elsewhere. Livia wrote long and detailed weekly reports about mass round-ups of Palestinians and Lebanese Shi'ites in camps and southern villages, about gestapo-style raids on homes and offices, about tortured and brutalised prisoners and about the insurrection of Lebanese nationalists against the Gemayel regime and Israeli occupiers. Her methodical analysis was always lucid and forthright as she ran her mind over all the edges of the latest Lebanese tangle and spared no one who deserved criticism.

Our friend and colleague Livia always argued for stark honesty in work and in human relationships and for this she paid a high price. She lived a principled life, compromised with no one and assumed everyone else would behave with equal integrity. And so she was always outraged and indignant, disgusted and cynical, but always active and working, connecting others of like mind and believing that space must be kept open somewhere for frank, in-depth discussion.

As a woman who was strong and brilliant and who flouted traditional stereotypes, as a journalist who rejected both propaganda and pretenses of 'objectivity,' and as a true revolutionary spirit, Livia Rokach was better than any of us, and suffered because of it. Her last ten years she invested her emotions and intellect with us, Palestinians, volunteering wherever her expertise was needed, in various places and capacities, without asking materially in return, only that we all 'ride the same wave.'

This is Livia's photograph: her sharp eyes remember, keep asking questions, close at some of the answers and then more questions come, her hands move from pen to cigarettes to paper to cigarettes, she tosses her head and throws it back in laughter at some new turn or absurdity, she smiles a tired, inexhaustible knowing smile at all of us.

Progressive writer Livia Rokach, 56, was found dead in her Rome apartment late Saturday, March 31. Police are investigating the exact cause of death. Rokach, an Italian citizen, had written for the past twenty years on Indochina and the Middle East and had interviewed almost all major political figures in both areas. Her work was published in Italian progressive papers, international publications and reprinted in most dailies in the Arab world. Since the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon she also worked as a regular correspondent for Al Fajr English weekly, reporting particularly on the repression of the civilian population by government and occupation forces.

Rokach produced some of her finest work during the last few years. Her book *Israel's Sacred Terrorism* (1980, AAUG) exposed Israel's use of terror as policy, through a study of the diaries of Moshe Sharett, Israel's first foreign minister and then prime minister. Israel had tried in vain to suppress publication of the Hebrew diaries in Israel and in the US and also Livia Rokach's English translation,

which made available material not part of "official history."

Livia Rokach also authored *No to a Golden Ghetto, Vietnam: Against Genocide, The Open Wounds, The Proofs*, and an unpublished manuscript on the Catholic Church's Palestine policy. She had been a research fellow at the Amsterdam-based Transnational Institute and an affiliate of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC.

In 1981 Livia moved to Beirut for six months to set up the Hebrew broadcast of *Voice of Palestine* but the project was abandoned after Rokach left.

Notice of her death was a front-page item in the Israeli daily *HaAretz*. Her father, Israel Rokach, was mayor of Tel Aviv from 1936, under the British mandate, to 1953. Livia moved to Rome in 1959 as a correspondent for the Israeli daily *Davar*, *New Outlook* magazine and Israel Radio but gradually developed anti-Zionist convictions and broke off all relations with her family.

HaAretz reported April 2 that a typed letter had been left in her apartment addressed to

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Over 3000 people gathered in the Triangle village of Taibeh on Land Day, one of the many rallies and demonstrations held locally on March 30.

5 Shot in Land Day West Bank Demos

Four Palestinian youths were shot and wounded by Israeli troops during demonstrations in various parts of the West Bank and Gaza to mark the eighth anniversary of Land Day March 30. A fifth youth was wounded on March 31 as the demonstrations continued.

The fiercest demonstrations occurred in the northern part of the West Bank, where Israeli troops used tear gas and live ammunition to quell protests. Israeli troops also placed Balata and Aln Belt Elma refugee camps in the Nablus district under a one-day curfew March 30 following demonstrations. Youths reportedly raised Palestinian flags in the camp and stoned Israeli vehicles when they arrived to put down the protest.

Ahmad Salman, 35, was seriously wounded after Israeli troops opened fire on the demonstrators.

Large demonstrations also erupted in Jenin, the northernmost city in the West Bank, where two teenagers were slightly wounded from gunshots. Ziad Ibrahim A'amer, 19, from Jenin refugee camp was shot in the foot. Another Jenin youth, Imad Fawzi Abu Daqqah, 14, was wounded in the left leg.

A fourth youth, Yasir Nazzari, 17, was shot in the left thigh by soldiers fighting stone-throwers in the town of Qabaty, south of Jenin. All three youths were admitted to Jenin Hospital for treatment. Demonstrations and protests also prevailed in Kalandia refugee camp, on the Jerusalem-Ramallah road, where Palestinian flags were hung on electricity lines.

In Ramallah youths set three tyres afire near the Ramallah-Jerusalem bus station. Four Israeli jeeps loaded with soldiers rushed to the scene and forced passers-by to put out the blaze.

Several patrols drove around in the city to keep order. Demonstrations and stone-throwing incidents were also reported from the neighbouring Am'ari and Jalazon refugee camps.

Gaza Strip

Demonstrations prevailed in various parts of the Gaza Strip, particularly in the refugee camps. *Al Sha'ab* daily reported that youths set tyres afire in Jabalya refugee camp, the city of Gaza and the village of Abasan al-Kabirah. Meanwhile, Israeli military authorities arranged 'speedy trials' for groups of youths arrested during the demonstrations. Two youths were given sentences of one-month imprisonment and fined IS25,000 each.

March 31

Student demonstrations erupted in Dheisheh refugee camp, on the southern outskirts of Bethlehem. Marwan A'amer Ahmar, 16, was wounded in the leg when Israeli troops opened

fire. According to *The Jerusalem Post*, stone-throwing on the main Bethlehem-Hebron road, which passes in front of the camp, disrupted traffic. Israeli troops showered the camp with bullets and tear gas and chased stone-throwers through the small alleys of the camp. Several people were arrested. Demonstrations were also reported in the nearby Aida refugee camp. Israeli troops also used force to put down demonstrations in Jalazon and Am'ari refugee camps.

At Bir Zeit, Israeli troops surrounded the university's new campus all day after students held a peaceful meeting to mark Land Day.

In the Gaza Strip, students of the Islamic University held a demonstration in front of the university compound. Students set tyres afire and stoned the soldiers who rushed to put down the protest. Israeli troops drove students back on campus using tear gas and bullets. They also made a number of arrests before they allowed students to disperse.

BZU Shut Following Demo.

Israeli military authorities in the West Bank ordered Bir Zeit University's new campus closed down for one month April 2. The measure was taken as a collective punishment for the

student march marking Land Day, which took place two days earlier.

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Haddad Militia Kills Three in Jibshit, Guerillas Wound 13 Israelis

The Israeli-established militia formerly headed by renegade Lebanese army officer Sa'ad Haddad went into action against the population of the southern Shi'ite village of Jibshit March 28, killing three people and wounding at least 10 others.

According to Israeli reports, the Israeli army and Haddad militia attempted to force their way into the village and arrest local residents on suspicion of involvement in recent attacks on Israeli patrols. The combined forces were held off by local residents and subsequently opened fire. Sheikh Mohammed Shams al-Din, deputy head of the Shi'ite Supreme Islamic Council, told Beirut Radio that the town was shelled by the Israelis.

The Israelis eventually got into the town and arrested dozens of people, according to an Israeli Radio broadcast. They prevented the burial of the dead and curfewed the area. Senior Israeli army officers told Israeli Radio they were "satisfied with the conduct shown by Haddad's soldiers," according to the Israeli broadcasts.

The curfew was continuing as *Al Fajr* went to press. Amal Leader Nabih Berri called March 28 on residents of Nabatiya and surroundings to strike for three days in protest of what he called "the abominable massacre committed by Israel and its associates," according to the Progressive Socialist party station *Voice of the Mountain*. Berri said Shi'ites in the south should block roads and try to hamper the movements of Israeli troops.

At a news conference in Beirut April 2 a 21-year-old told the press he had been paid US\$1,900 by the Israeli military governor of Nabatiya to kill Sheikh Ragheb Harb in Jibshit in January. Harb, a well-respected local clergyman, was gunned down outside his home. Israel claimed then he was the victim of a local feud.

The Reuters report of the conference said the youth and another man who participated in the attack were captured by Amal in Beirut. They said they

had been sent by the Israeli governor, who they knew as 'Abu Yusef,' to kill two militia leaders.

Attacks on Israelis

At least 13 Israeli soldiers were wounded this week in a series of attacks throughout the occupied area south of the Awali River.

One soldier was wounded when guerrillas opened fire on a patrol outside the village of An-sariyya March 27. The patrol returned fire and searched the area, according to Israeli Radio. No arrests were reported. Israel also reported a grenade attack on a patrol in Sidon the same day. They reported no casualties. A sack of grenades was found at the southern entrances to the port city, according to the same sources.

The *Voice of the PLO* broadcasting from Baghdad claimed two attacks the same day. The station said a patrol was wiped out by a remote controlled bomb near Tyre and several Israeli soldiers wounded in an RPG and small arms attack on a patrol near Nabatiya. Israel did not confirm these attacks.

Two Israelis were wounded, one seriously, March 28 when Lebanese National Resistance forces attacked an Israeli patrol with RPG and machine gun fire in the town of Arab Salim, according to *Ihadin Radio*, the station run by supporters of the former Lebanese President Suleiman Franjeh. The station said Israeli troops sealed and searched the area. An Israeli army spokesperson confirmed the attack.

Four Israeli soldiers were wounded March 29 when one of them stood on a mine at Relhan, near Nabatiya. The patrol was searching the area after a roadside bomb had been detonated as a seven-vehicle patrol passed, according to an Israeli military spokesperson. Five other bombs were found in the area.

A fifth Israeli was wounded at Yanta the same day by small arms fire from Syrian held territory in east Lebanon. A grenade

was thrown at an Israeli patrol in Sidon, according to an Israeli spokesperson. No one was injured.

On March 30 an Israeli patrol shot dead a guerrilla in an exchange of fire south of the Zaharani River. Official reports said the patrol was suspicious of a vehicle while on patrol and fired when the driver refused to stop.

The next day two Katyusha rockets fell near the Israeli kibbutz of Misgav Am. The two 107 mm rockets, one of which failed to explode, fell about a kilometre from the kibbutz near the village of Adeisa. The Israelis found the launcher 10 kilometres away. A Palestinian organisation claimed responsibility.

Two Israelis were wounded near Sidon when a remote controlled bomb was detonated alongside the vehicle they were travelling in. They were flown to a hospital in Haifa for treatment. Another soldier was wounded by small arms fire in an attack near Lake Qarn'un, east Lebanon. It was one of two incidents in the area, according to Israeli reports.

Foreign correspondents reported that five Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded in an attack on a patrol in Nabatiya April 3. Earlier they reported an attack on the coastal road between Tyre and Sidon. No casualty figures were reported.

In Beirut, meanwhile, 32 people died and 100 were wounded March 28 in shelling between opposing forces in west and east Beirut. That night the Higher Political Security Committee met under the chairmanship of Lebanese President Amin Gemayel to discuss the security situation in the country. All factions participated and the atmosphere was termed "amicable and serious." A spokesperson said agreement was reached on several issues. No further details were revealed.

Finally, over the weekend the French, the final contingent of the US-arranged multinational force, left Beirut after 19 months.

continued from page 1

Livia

her former husband, deputy chairman of the Italian Senate Enrico Angelotti, in which Livia spoke of a court-ordered eviction from her apartment. The fact that the note was typed rather than in her accustomed handwriting and that she had moved only days before to a new flat has raised with police the possibility that she may have been assassinated. An autopsy is being undertaken in Rome.

Livia had recently written to Jerusalem friends that she wanted her Middle East archives sent to Bir Zeit University.

Armed Attack in West Jerusalem Injures 48

Three *fedayin* waged a grenade and gunfire attack at a major crossroads in the centre of West Jerusalem April 2 leaving 48 wounded, one critically. One of the attackers was killed and the other two were captured.

The attack began a few minutes before 10:00 am when the armed men emerged from a King George Street shop and opened fire indiscriminately from Polish-made submachine guns at passers-by.

Firing continued for several minutes and one man hurled grenades at an Egged bus. An Israeli merchant and three other Israelis used their pistols and fired at the attackers, according to Israeli reports. A reporter on the scene said, however, that virtually everyone in the area — civilians and police — seemed to be shooting.

One of the guerrillas died in the street amid a burst of fire.

Israeli security forces and border guards closed the area for two hours and started a wide search for the other two attackers.

District police commander Rahamin Comfort told reporters one of the attackers was arrested at a checkpoint in a red Autobianchi on the Jerusalem-Bethlehem road. The car was seen at the site of the attack. Israeli soldiers arrested the other attacker 200 metres from King George Street.

The wounded were taken to several hospitals in the Jerusalem area. One was described as being in critical condition and four others suffered medium wounds.

The owner of Sport Habira, where the attack started, said that two sweaty and nervous men speaking English with an Arabic accent entered his shop and asked for "a pair of jeans." One went into the booth to try on the jeans and came out with a gun. The two men then rushed out of the shop, deployed in two directions throwing grenades and

shooting, he said.

According to police sources, all the weapons used in the attack were of East European manufacture.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the attack. In a communiqué from Damascus, the DFPL said that three members of the 'Sabra and Shatila Martyrs Cell' were wounded or arrested by Israeli forces. The statement said the men stormed a government ministry and took two ministers hostage. Newspaper correspondents discounted the claim. They said neither the nearby tourism ministry nor any other ministry had been attacked. A spokesperson for the ministry of tourism said the minister was out of Jerusalem at the time of the attack.

Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, said after the attack that the attackers and those who support them would be punished.

Israeli Interior Minister Yosef Burg said that the attackers came from Lebanon and that Israel would re-examine border procedures at the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek said the latest political developments in the region, the talk of transferring the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to the city and the dialogue with King Hussein about the future of the occupied territories led to the attack.

According to reports in the Israeli press, the security services believe the attackers came from Syrian-held territory and infiltrated the country from the north. Defence minister Moshe Arens refused to say what measures would be taken to stop such infiltration or what retaliation would be made for this attack.

According to one Israeli commentator, however, "a more aggressive and pre-emptive policy is being evolved."

UNRWA Director Expelled from Syria

The Syrian government gave the director of UNRWA affairs in the country 48 hours notice to leave the country March 29. The director, Robert M. Callagher, was given no reason.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck immediately sent a cable from his Vienna headquarters to inform the secretary-general of the United Nations.

Callagher, a 53-year-old

former lieutenant-colonel in the Canadian army, joined UNRWA four years ago. He served as deputy director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan until September 1981, moving to Syria as deputy director. He became director in January 1982. UNRWA runs education, health and relief services for 226,000 registered Palestine refugees in Syria. UNRWA employs almost 2000 people there and runs 115 schools.

THIS WEEK'S CENSORSHIP

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 205, April 4, 1984:

Number of original articles submitted to censors	16
Number of articles totally censored out	3
Number of articles lost	1
Number of articles partially censored but used	4
Number of articles passed	8

To Livia Rokach, from her friend Felicia Langer

It is so hard to apprehend that you will never more raise your voice inflamed with anger against wickedness and injustice; that you will be no more in agony for suffering humanity, blaming hypocrites and false moralists of all nationalities.

I know that you were feeling the pain of the tortured, mobilising and recruiting for them all possible resources, struggling against obstacles.

Sometimes alone, sometimes even abandoned, but always continuing to lend help, with an utmost devotion and integrity. Always and everywhere with the oppressed against the oppressors.

You offered all your abilities and talent, all your life for those tormented victims of the Middle East, the Palestinians and other fighters for freedom, challenging the forces of evil, in the name of peace and justice, with an admirable courage.

I remember your beautiful smile, sometimes so bitter, and your grim eyes, reflecting the depth of sadness of the victims of Sabra and Shatila.

I pity that you will never be able to see the fruit of your ordeal, the dawn of your hopes.

I miss you, Livia, my friend, my sister in struggle.

Commercial Learning Centres Put Under Israeli Regulation

The Israeli liaison officer for education in Nablus ordered the directors of local commercial educational centres to obtain operating licenses from his office to operate for which they must meet health, construction and educational requirements. Directors and teachers must be qualified and they should work on a full-time basis, the order says. The centres' directors were also instructed not to transfer teachers or change the curricula.

According to the new regulation the license is vital only for one year and can be cancelled on the death of the license holder or if studies or activities at centres cease for one year.

Salem Alem, West Bank education director, told *Al Fajr* that he sees more negative than positive effects from these centres. "Firstly," Alem said, "they were established for commercial reasons; secondly, it is difficult to control them; and thirdly, there are bad feelings and corrupting competition between them."

Alem explained that some teachers and school principals

establish centres in the names of their sons, daughters and wives to evade the ban on education employees having more than one job. Fees are determined at the whim of the director and many students are exploited by them, he said. Alem said that two or three centres in each city are sufficient to meet the needs of the population. In Nablus alone there are 21 such centres.

Fatmeh Ranu, director of Asri centre in Nablus, told *Al Fajr* that after the Israeli education officer visited the centres two weeks ago, she discovered that many of them violated licensing requirements: "We need to implement the law." She added, "The education department in Nablus must extend its supervision over these centres."

Only 10 inspectors work in the Nablus area supervising over 1400 teachers. The inspectors, Alem said, are unable to supervise these centres which operate, for the most part, in the afternoon.

The education centres offer courses in accounting, typing and languages.

Military Close Beit Sahour School

A Beit Sahour secondary school was closed indefinitely and its 13 teachers' wages cut April 1 by the Bethlehem military governor in apparent revenge for a demonstration on March 29.

The orders came after students hoisted Palestinian flag, set up stone barriers and the military used tear gas to disperse demonstrators.

Eleven people, including seven students, were arrested.

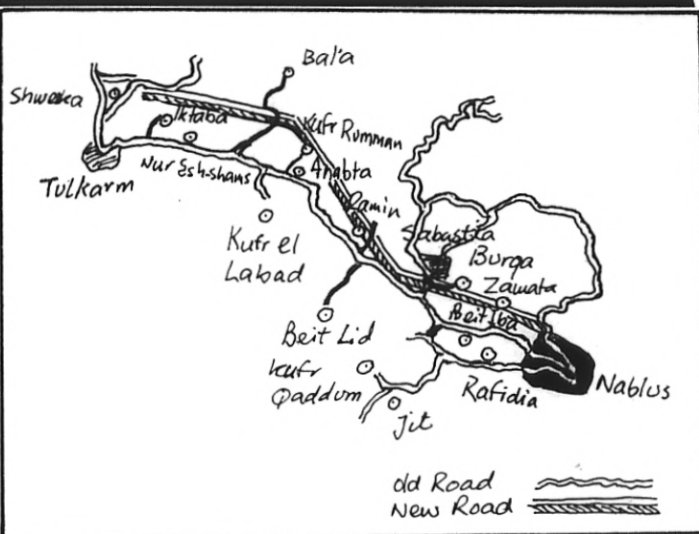
Mayor Hanna Atrash asked the military governor to reopen the school at a meeting following the closure. The governor refused

and told the mayor that teachers should prevent demonstrations, "even if they have to come to school at 6:00 am."

Atrash condemned the use of collective punishment against students.

The principal of the school, Salameh Salameh, and its secretary were transferred to an office of the Bethlehem education department, indicating the closure may be long-term.

The remaining 11 teachers were transferred to Artas, Abu Dis, Bethlehem, Beit Sahour and Khadr schools.



Planned Road Destroying Livelihoods

Israeli authorities are planning to open a 100-metre-wide road linking Shuweika, two kilometres north of Tulikarm, to Nablus, 28 kilometres south of Tulikarm. The road will pass through citrus groves, agricultural lands and lands earmarked for Palestinian construction. Residents of villages and camps through which the proposed road will pass will also be prevented from building on or using land 120 metres on either side of the road. Tulikarm municipality was also provided with an aerial photograph of the route.

Military government officers notified the Tulikarm municipality of the road plan two weeks ago. Residents and the municipality are permitted to file counter-claims with the chairperson of zoning areas at Beit El military occupation headquarters until April 12.

Hilmi Hanoun, the mayor of Tulikarm, told *Al Fajr* that the road will pass through Tulikarm's sports field, an artesian well and the Nur Shams refugee camp. More than 60 residents filed opposition at Beit El, he said.

Mayor Hanoun stated the Israeli objective for establishing this road is military. "They want to establish a road outside the town and grab more land," he said.

The road will start from the borders of Tulikarm municipality near the Tulikarm-Netanya road and move towards Khadouri, in the west. After it passes at Ektaba crossroads, it joins the old road and then goes down between lands of Anabta and Kufur Rumman towards Deir Sharaf and then to Nablus.

Najah Student Found Murdered

The mutilated corpse of Bilal Jamal Najjar was found near Madal Bani Fadel village, Nablus district, March 27.

Najjar, a junior student at Najah University, Nablus, left home March 11 and was not seen alive again. His head was cut off and found in a hole near his body with some torn-up Jordanian dinars.

Apart from these details, police released no further information. They have given no de-



tails of possible motives, identified suspects or the circumstances of the crime.

Some Bourin villagers, where the Najjar family lives, said that the youth might have been killed by West Bank settlers.

According to Najah sources, Najjar did not take a prominent role in political affairs.

Bilal was buried late at night March 30. The Israeli authorities only permitted five family members to attend the funeral.

Military Sewage Marches Into al-Bireh



Sewage-pond above the al-Bireh industrial area. The pond is the final destination from Ramallah's military compound. Residents complain that the sewage prevents them from using their land and causes mosquito infestation.

The industrial area of al-Bireh is the final destination for the stream of raw sewage which flows from the military compound in Ramallah. The sewage emerges from a pipe at the edge of the compound, winds its way round the houses and fields on the outskirts of Ramallah and finally runs into a shallow open pond just above the al-Bireh industrial area. When sewage discharges are high or when there is rain, the pond overflows and distributes its contents around the workshops and factories below. The stream above the pond also intermittently floods, rendering the surrounding land unsuitable for grazing or cultivation.

Residents in the area complain that the sewage prevents them from using their land, creates a foul odour and provides

an ideal breeding ground for the flies and mosquitoes which infest their homes. The Tawil municipality, before it was dismissed by the Israeli military in spring 1982, regularly complained to the authorities about their open cesspool. The open sewer also presents a serious health risk: raw sewage is likely to contain high concentrations of disease-carrying organisms which can be transferred to human hosts. Many children play near the contaminated area.

One of the major causes of infant death in the West Bank, dehydration through diarrhea, can be caused by this type of pollution. Other less common diseases — typhoid, cholera, dysentery and polio — can become prevalent under insanitary conditions of this kind.

One resident stated that he had complained to the Israeli-controlled municipality and that a doctor was sent who, after sprinkling some chemicals into the pond, assured locals that the problem would soon be solved. The pond, however, continued to enlarge and no further efforts were made to ameliorate the contamination. Workers in the industrial area told a similar story.

A placement of a simple pipe could carry sewage from the military compound to a place away from the town where it could percolate freely into the underlying rock, minimising the risk of contact with humans. A proper but more expensive solution would be to construct a small sewage treatment plant so that the water could be reused for irrigation.

Israel Expanding Hebron Settlement

Shopowners in a building near Sultan's Pool in Hebron received notices last week from the city's Israeli-run municipality to vacate their stores as soon as possible. The municipality said it owns the building and it is repossessing it. Hebron residents fear the building will become another part of Israeli settlement in Hebron. The city's bus station and vegetable market were earlier shut down by the military and handed over to settlers.

Al Talia Arabic weekly reported March 29 that the Old City of Hebron has been surveyed several times in recent weeks, particularly an area known as al-Aqabah and surrounding shops.

An Israeli soldier reportedly told one Hebronite that the survey was done to help settlers from Kiryat Arba "reconstruct and rebuild" the old market, according to the newspaper. Settlers and Israeli soldiers took over the rooftops of houses in the market area three months ago.

Meanwhile construction is underway in the Daboyya Building, an Arab building in the centre of the city taken over by settlers in 1980, and in the old bus station. A High Court order prohibiting settlers changing the status of the bus station was issued last year.

A shopowner near Sultan's Pool told *Al Fajr* that the building in question is very old and contains three or four shops. He said the municipality claims it owns the building and now it wants it back.

Al Talia said the Israeli municipality is facilitating legal measures to increase Jewish settlement in the centre of the Arab city. It said the barbed wire around the old bus station has been extended to include half of the main road. It said by moving the bus station and market area to a different part of the city, the Israeli authorities intend to separate the new northern part of the city from the old southern part.

Soldiers Angered by Peace Plea

Senior Israeli army officers stormed out of the Tzavta auditorium, Tel Aviv, March 22 where an estimated 1500 soldiers and officers were attending a symposium on the play entitled "Encounter on the Borders."

The play is an imaginary conversation and confrontation between Raymond Tawil, editor and director of the Palestine Press Services, and Golda Me'ir, the former Israeli Prime Minister.

The disruption occurred when Tawil commented on the play and the general political situation. She stressed the necessity for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the Palestinian right of return. When she demanded that Israel must recognise the PLO, some officers shouted and tried to disrupt the meeting.

Some shouted, "We will never recognise a terrorist organisation."

According to participants, Tawil retorted, "What is going on? So what? Let the sixth war come. This land will be a cemetery for all peoples."

During the symposium, Yigal Karmon, the former acting-head of the 'civil administration', asked Tawil provocatively: "You claim that Israel refuses to recognise the PLO. Shultz, the US secretary of state, said that there were no moderates in the PLO."

Tawil answered, "Shultz is not God and the US hasn't learned lessons from Iran and Lebanon."

She reiterated that PLO Chairperson Yasser Arafat made a concession when he accepted the establishment of the Palestinian state and that the right of the return is recognised by the United Nations. Tawil told *Al Fajr* after the symposium that Israelis in general refuse to face this fact and its implications, which "touch the existence of Israel."

Rote Khazan, daughter of the founder of the Mapam Party, wrote the play which contrasts the position of Tawil, former resident of Acre, and Me'ir, a Jewish immigrant from Kiev in the Soviet Union.

Before the outburst, Tawil told the Israeli officers: "I appeal to your humanity. Not only to your minds, to your hearts. Do not wage wars before you look in the eyes of the victim. Do not shoot, do not be killers."

Palestinian journalist Radwan Abu Ayash said of the play: "It is an honest, correct and clear-cut shout of appeal to the Israeli conscience, to those who believe in humanity and the possibility of establishing a language of understanding between people. It is a strong cry delivered to Israelis warning them against the continuation of violence."

Waqf Building Entrance Collapses into Excavation Hole

The entrance to the 500-year-old Islamic Council (*waqf*) building near al-Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem collapsed March 26 over Israeli excavations leaving a six-metre-deep hole and cracks in the building. No one was hurt.

The hole exposes a long tunnel, excavated by the Israeli archaeology department near the western wall of al-Aqsa Mosque several years ago.

The tunnel begins at the Walling Wall and passes Bab al-Silsila, Souq al-Qatanin and Bab al-Hadid until it reaches the *waqf* offices.

Adnan Hussein, senior *waqf* engineer, told *Al Fajr* that the entrance suddenly collapsed at 2:30 pm. "The excavations," Hussein charged, "caused the collapse of the entrance and still endanger the entire building."

Ikrima Sabri, the director of the *waqf* preaching department in Jerusalem, said the *waqf* has repeatedly denounced and complained against the excavations which endanger the Islamic monuments.

The Israeli advisor for Arab affairs in the Jerusalem municipality, Morris Zelkha, rejected the allegations. He told *Al Fajr* that the building was built during the Mamluke period in the 14th century and erected on arches. Since that date water and sewage have endangered many buildings in Jerusalem including the Islamic *waqf* building, Zelkha said. He denied that excavations caused the collapse of the entrance. He also said that the municipality of Jerusalem will send engineers and construction workers to strengthen the building's foundations. "The work will be finished in two weeks," he said.

Waqf archaeological department director Youssef Natshe told *Al Fajr* that the Islamic *waqf* building was used in the 14th century as a religious school, called *Manjekiya* after the name of its founder, Manjek Sayfi.

HaAretz newspaper said that Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Shamir intervened personally and ordered a stop to excavations along the western wall of the mosque.

Shamir told Israeli Interior Minister Yosef Burg to stop the dig. Shamir decided to interfere after he received a telegramme from the acting mayor of Jerusalem, Yosef Ghadish, warning him against the continuation of the excavation which is undermining all buildings along the western wall.

The religious affairs ministry, also run by Burg, announced March 30 it has no intention of continuing digging.

Rimonde Lamer, a special UNESCO envoy, is expected to visit Jerusalem to inspect the excavations.

The religious affairs ministry sent officials to inspect the tunnel but *waqf* engineers were not permitted to visit the tunnel to prove their claim last week that the excavations have caused the collapse of the entrance of the Islamic *waqf* building.

Hussein told *Al Fajr* that he received no answer to an application for a team of *waqf* experts to visit the tunnel. Hussein sent his application last week.

Galilee Priest Gets New Travel Ban

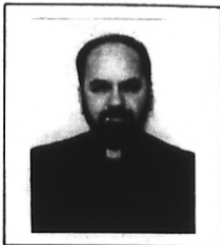
Israeli Interior Minister Yosef Burg used a British mandate law March 30 to bar a Catholic priest from the Galilee from travelling abroad for six months.

Father Fawzi Khouri, 37, pastor of the Greek Catholic Church in the village of Fassouta, was planning to travel to France to continue his post-graduate theological studies.

The banning order came after a series of restrictions against Father Khouri, the latest being a four-month travel ban. The priest, an active member of the Prisoners' Solidarity Committee, was handed the travel ban on April 1 at Acre police station. The order gives no reason for the measure. Haifa lawyer Salim Wakim, who represents the priest, said that the order was based on the British mandate emergency regulations of 1945. One month before Khouri had obtained a High Court order permitting him to travel abroad at the end of the four-month period which was allocated to the police for questioning unless the police present a charge sheet against him.

Khouri described the measure as "political revenge."

The measure has also gravely restricted the priest's social activities in Western Europe. Khouri is responsible for foreign relations in Western Europe for the Education Development Society in the Arab Sector. The Society tried unsuccessfully to



establish an Arab university in the Galilee. Khouri was also responsible for local students sent to Europe by the Greek Catholic Church.

The measure jeopardised the priest's pursuit of his PhD studies at the Sorbonne University in Paris. The Fassouta priest's studies are being financed by the French government. Khouri told *Al Fajr* that he has informed the French Embassy of the harassment measures against him. Four months ago Father Khouri spent one month in prison on allegations of contacts with the PLO while he was in France. He was released for lack of evidence.

The priest became a target for authorities' harassment for the first time in 1975 after he refused to head an Israeli government-sponsored committee to support the Christians of Lebanon. Instead he worked on collecting donations and sent them to all Lebanese victims of the war through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Court Hears Testimony in Police Abuse Trial

An Israeli policeman, Moshe Biton, was brought to magistrate court in Tel Aviv March 29 on charges that he tortured a Palestinian teacher, Walid Arda, last May.

A physician told the court that when he examined Arda on his release from Fara', the site of the alleged torture, he found

several broken bones.

Walid Mahmoud Arda testified that Biton beat him with a club with nails embedded in it and verbally abused him.

International Committee of the Red Cross and Amnesty International representatives attended the court session. (Translation: *Al Itihad*, April 2, 1984)

4 Town Arrest Appeals Refused

The military objections committee, meeting March 27, refused to cancel town arrest orders which military authorities had imposed on four West Bankers.

Wahid Hamdallah, the elected mayor of Anabta, Samir Sheihat, chairperson of the Bir Zeit University student council, Jamal Shati, a student at Najah University, and Abdullah Mahmoud Barakat, a Bethlehem University student, had complained against the renewal of the town arrest orders.

The Israeli military prosecutor said the town arrest was imposed on Hamdallah because of his speech to Reverend Jesse Jackson, one of the presidential candidates of the Democratic Party. He claimed that the information he had in his possession was enough to place him under

town arrest but not to convict him. Advocates said that Hamdallah had called in his above-mentioned speech for establishing a durable and just peace in the Middle East. Advocates Fathi Shabita, Felicia Langer and Jawad Boulos argued for their clients that the renewal of town arrest would destroy their future and contravened international conventions and human rights.

Members of the military committee, after convening a closed session, claimed that the secret file and information indicate that lifting town arrest orders would endanger the 'state security.' Advocates demanded that the committee notify them of the information being used against their clients. Hamdallah was placed under town arrest in May 1980. (Translation: *Al Itihad*, April 2, 1984).

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Arab-Americans Contribute to the 'Rainbow Coalition'



James Abourezk



Jesse Jackson

Pick Joins Banner On Land Day

In the midst of the demonstrations, speeches, flag-raising, graffiti painting and Israeli army shootings of youths that marked Land Day this year, a new development deserves special praise.

Students and teachers at Bir Zeit University as well as a number of West Bank voluntary committees embarked on a series of cooperative activities working on Palestinian lands. Work was carried out in the West Bank villages of Jifna, Arara, Ras Karkar, Sinjil and Beitunia. Villagers welcomed the volunteers and participated with them. Although the pick and spade-toting Palestinian volunteers received little coverage in comparison to their brothers elsewhere in Palestine, their programme of clearing, digging and planting the land is a most basic and productive activity.

The importance of this popular effort to till the land was, however, noticed by the Israeli officials inside the 'green line'. Police prevented activists in Um al-Fahm's Ansar movement and a number of Jewish volunteers from entering their village's land which was closed by the authorities allegedly for use for military training.

Palestinians' love for their land which was portrayed in the first Land Day demonstrations back in 1976 to protest the takeover of Palestinian land in the Galilee has been turned into a national event remembered at home and abroad. Whether it was in holding mass rallies, demonstrating in the streets, closing shops or working on the land, Palestinians are not only honouring the six youths who died in the first Land Day demonstration but reminding those alive of the long and difficult struggle of investing in our most cherished possession of our land.

The ADC (American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee) held its largest annual convention March 15-18 in Washington, DC. District of Columbia Mayor Marion Barry and Democratic Party presidential candidates George McGovern and Jesse Jackson highlighted the affair and backed the right of the Palestinian people to establish their own state. The convention was attended by more than 2000 at its peak, when candidate Jackson spoke on Sunday March 18. ADC, established in May 1980, has grown to 20,000 members and 45 chapters; it is now the largest and most respected of the Arab-American organisations. The organisation also opened 10 regional offices with a staff of 50.

In a country like the US, made up of ethnic minorities, reality dictates the formation of coalitions among those who share certain identifiable objectives. Who better understands this fact than members of the US Congress such as James Abourezk and Black Americans? Arab Americans, Black Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics and others are groups that meet the necessary conditions to legitimately build a powerful, effective block in pursuit of certain goals.

James Abourezk, an American born to Arab parents, is a lawyer, former Congressperson and former Senator, who has long championed the cause of the underdog and has become known for that. Native Americans, Arabs, poor whites, Hispanics and Black Americans are all amongst the underprivileged and their organising into a coalition was a cause waiting to be discovered. Leaders of these communities realised that in coming together, their power and influence can be made potent and they agreed to march under what Jesse Jackson calls the 'Rainbow Coalition.' Addressing the convention Friday, March 16, McGovern praised Abourezk as one with a most "genuine burning sense of justice." McGovern said that his ten-point programme for the presidency included warning Americans that the US under Reagan was "drifting step by step into another Viet Nam-type war in Central America," adding that this also applies to the Middle East. He argued that in the Middle East "there are two rights," quoting I.F. Stone, the well-known American journalist.

Present among many other speakers was Mayor Tawfiq Zayyad of Nazareth, who attacked Israel's policy of discrimination against the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. He argued that the greatest achievement for Palestinians is the failure of Israel to impose on them "a capitulation of misery." He also said that after Beirut it became clear to both the US and Israel that the Palestinian problem will not be solved through military adventures. The Lebanese invasion's failure, he said, is a good lesson to many in the world; to Israel the failure is due to two reasons, an economic burden and a burden of human casualties, neither of which Israel can afford. He concluded by arguing that the Middle East is "no place for Pax Americana, or for Pax Israeli."

The US Must Talk to The PLO

Jesse Jackson, one of the Democratic Party's three remaining candidates for the presidency, is unequivocally the Arab American choice for the presidency. To the roar of applause, Jackson called for a dialogue between Arab, Jewish and Black Americans and for the US government to talk with the PLO with the hope of achieving a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem.

The audience, filling the International Ballroom Centre of the Washington Hilton, estimated by the *Washington Post* to be 2000, was as close to the achievement of the rainbow coalition as it could be. Jackson described his rainbow coalition as the coming together of many groups, with emphasis on what unites rather than what divides those groups. "The rainbow," he said, "gathers the combination of sunshine and rain, pain and pleasure, but emits astounding beauty..." Jackson argued, "Today killings and occupations [in the Middle East] are legitimated by anti-Arab racism."

Jackson elaborated on the need for a dialogue between Arabs, Jews, Blacks and poor Americans, genuinely refuting media reports accusing him of anti-Semitism. Tragically, he said, Arabs and Jews, "both victims of others, have today become victims of each other." He challenged both Arabs and Jews to understand the pain and suffering of each other. Jackson said to the ADC audience, "We must talk as a nation to both the Israeli government and the PLO," and support the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Arab Establishment, US to Blame

Professor Ibrahim Abu Lughod presented an articulation of the Palestinian impasse, blaming both Arab governments and the US. Proposals for a solution to the Palestinian question did not take into account factors known to Palestinian leaders, he argued.

Abu Lughod, a well-known anthropologist and intellectual at the National Center for Arab Studies, identified certain possible contradictions between Palestinian diagnosis of the problem, on the one hand, and the medicine prescribed, on the other. "We identified Zionism as the first enemy," he said, yet the solution proposed at one time was a secular democracy in all of Palestine. Besides assuring Israel of American rejection, a state of ambiguity was also created about Palestinian clarity. The secular democracy solution, coming as it did with Palestinian identity defined as part of the Arab nation and Palestine part of the Arab world, put proponents of this solution in conflict with Arab regimes and engaged them in fratricidal conflicts, both inter-Arab and inter-Palestinian. Another mistake made, Abu Lughod argued, was an uncalled-for trust in the US government's ability and willingness to play the role of an honest broker.

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Four times in the past two years Rabbi Meir Kahane, head of the Kach movement, claimed, "We support the act, but did not commit it." On all four occasions the police had arrested activists and people close to the movement.

In three of the cases, members of Kach were convicted for the acts: the shooting at the Dome of the Rock and the (Haram al-Sharif) Temple Mount (Alan Goodman); planning assaults on Arabs (Yoel Lerner); and plotting against the Arab population in (the West Bank) (a number of Kach members). Did the movement send its men to commit the attacks that are carried out by the Jewish underground TNT this time too?

The Kach movement has been active in the country for more than 10 years now. Before that, Rabbi Kahane and his supporters terrorised anti-Semites, people who objected to Israel ("enemies of the Zionist people," by Kahane's definition) in the large US cities where Kahane's group was known by the name of the Jewish Defence League.

When bearded Rabbi Kahane emigrated to Israel and his picture had been published all over the world more often than pictures of Israeli ministers, a police officer told me, "This man will make trouble for us." The senior officer was not wrong. Ever since his arrival in the country, Kahane has caused more than a few headaches for the security services.

Two years ago Rabbi Kahane made 'history': he was the first Jew who was arrested under an administrative detention order. Then the six-month detention was explained in only a few words: "for reasons necessary to protect the security of Israel." All the complaints of Kahane and his lawyers didn't help. He remained in administrative detention without trial by order of the president of the district court.

Begin and Shamir Don't Understand

One hundred days ago, when unknown people started to commit sense-

"If someone wanted a 'made-to-order' agent provocateur to weaken the status of the state of Israel they would certainly target the criminal gang that was arrested on suspicion of attempting to blow up the mosque on the Temple Mount and of shooting at the bus of Arab workers," says lawyer Shmuel Tamir, former justice minister of Israel.

Tamir says the question of whether TNT is an underground movement or not is secondary in significance at this stage because its deeds are self-defining. Furthermore, the motivation of the subjective beliefs of gang members who think their acts will help the state doesn't change anything, he maintains. "The objective result of those deeds is decisive in the final analysis. Such deeds endanger the social structure of the state and assault the foreign relations of Israel," claims the former justice minister.

Advocate Tamir states categorically that all criminal acts, by his definition, endanger the hold of the state on East Jerusalem, (the West Bank) and the Gaza (Strip).

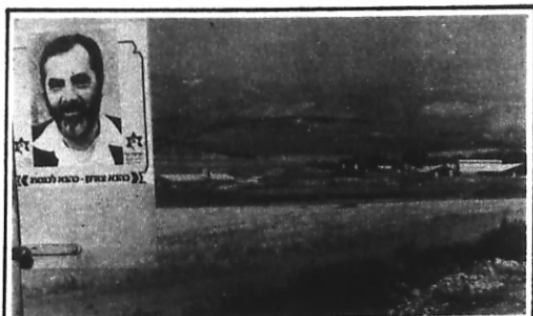
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Arab Americans

Professor Abu Lughod very capably presented an explanation about the relations of Arab governments and the US on the one hand and the Palestinian movement on the other, concluding that the US-adopted policy toward the Palestinian question excludes any Palestinian entity being established on any Palesti-

Though Small in Number, the Kach Movement is Large in Impact

by Gad Li'or



Meir Kahane's picture on a Kach poster outside a West Bank settlement: "The Arabs should be hit everywhere under the auspices of the authorities."

nationalist assaults — which mainly failed — against Christian and Muslim institutes and personalities in the Jerusalem area and the (West) Bank, Rabbi Kahane claimed enthusiastically in an interview I made with him in a hideaway (after he escaped from police who arrested him on the pretext of incitement): "We are in favour of these acts. Definitely. However, not in the way they are being done. They have no backing. They will be arrested and will serve 10 years. The Arabs should be hit everywhere under the auspices of the authorities. It's a pity that first Begin and now Shamir do not understand this..."

Who Are Kahane's Believers?

Whenever the Kach movement ran for the Knesset in the past three elections it always failed. Nevertheless the movement got several thousand votes. Is this the number of its activists? Does it have branches all over the country like other

movements? The answer is a big no. The Kach movement has only a few branches, the most recent of which was opened in Kiryat Arba where its biggest group of supporters live — about 50 people. In Jerusalem Kach has a few dozen activists and maybe another 50 members who come from time-to-time to activities and lectures at the Ushishkin Street offices of the movement. All the other movement activity is spontaneous and local.

In Tel Aviv, for instance, the movement is almost inactive; likewise in the north and in the Naqab. How, then, did the movement get votes in the Knesset elections?

Rabbi Kahane states: "We could get five to 10 mandates (seats), only we don't have the network for it. Can you imagine how many people in the country think exactly like us, only they don't dare admit it? Can you imagine how many people were convinced by activists of the big lists that 'there is no sense in voting for Kahane. Anyway he won't get in...'"

Apathy Aids the Appearance of Extremist Groups

by Haim Margalit

Issar Har'el: "Provocation for the Government"

"Every underground — no matter whether left or right — is a provocation to the government," says Issar Har'el, former head of the Mossad. "Every government that wishes to rule — mainly in a democratic society — must eradicate such groups to their root." Har'el refuses to comment on the specific case of TNT because he doesn't have the necessary information at hand.

He can relate better to the underground at the beginning of the state of Israel: "It is a mistake to think that underground groups complement acts that the government — not necessarily our government — cannot commit or doesn't dare to commit. Such groups are experts at confusing things and compli-

cating the whole society."

Dr. Marrari: "Danger to the Society"

"About a month ago a survey was published in *Ma'ariv*, according to which about 19 percent of those questioned supported TNT's actions. 'This result frightens me,' says Ariel Marrari, head of the project on terror research in the Centre for Strategic Research at Tel Aviv University. He adds, 'This is a red flashing light because it does not just relate to these five or 10 crazy men but to a real cross section of society who are prepared to condone such acts. The existence of such a group should concern all of us because it endangers the society and I fear that in a confrontation on the subject of the West Bank, there

can Jewish groups and the Israeli lobby. James Abourezk said that in 1976, during the US bicentennial celebrations, he had prayed for US 'independence from the state of Israel.' He also indicated that in order to help create a better, more effective lobby, the ADC and NAAA (National Association of Arab Americans) may come together in the future, if the ADC membership and that of the NAAA agree.

Arab Americans, at least those who are socially and politically con-

Activity in Schools

The majority of Rabbi Kahane's supporters are very young. Out of about 200 central activists in the whole of the country, at least half are less than 20-years-old and many of them still study in high schools. However, and this should be emphasised, they are participating in virtually no illegal activity.

Kach members who have been arrested and convicted of Jewish terrorist activity in Israel and the territories are a small group of people, some of whom are eccentrics and unbalanced, for instance Alan Goodman. In comparison to him, Yoel Lerner is an idealist — a professional teacher, an intelligent and pleasant person — whose views are immeasurably more extreme than Rabbi Kahane's.

The four TNT members who have been arrested now present themselves as Kach movement activists, a fact that was confirmed by Rabbi Kahane himself. The police are holding them for the assault on the bus in the Ramallah region and a number of other actions against the Arab population and institutions, mainly in the West Bank. Some of them have resided in Israel for only a few years. They hold US passports and declared immediately on their arrival in the country "the need to expel the Arabs from the country." About 20-30 extremists of this sort are involved in the Kach movement, according to police estimates.

"This is the source of trouble for the Israeli people. A small group of fanatics," a senior official in the interior ministry told me. The heavy suspicion that has fallen now on Kach members might perhaps justify this definition.

The Kach movement — in any case — is once more gaining widespread publicity. Although it may be one of the smallest movements active in the country, it is noteworthy — for good or bad — that its activists are indeed active and are not satisfied apparently by mere verbal preaching. (Translation: Yediot Aharanot, March 8, 1984).

will be a short circuit in Israeli society. Here is where danger is hidden."

Marrari, who lectures in psychology at Tel Aviv University, maintains that it is impossible as a psychologist to characterise people who belong to an extremist group. He points out that from research in the US in the 1950s, when similar groups were active, it was clear that there is no universal 'personality of a terrorist.' In the same extremist underground organisation there are various people with different characteristics. Such organisations restrict themselves to people who are exceptional by nature or disagree with the accepted social consensus. Those researchers dealt with the 'authoritative personality' but could not prove it existed even in that time and place.

In Marrari's opinion, the subject is of people whose goal justifies the means. They are prepared to kill and it is a fact that there have been assaults and crimes against Arabs. "The worry," says Marrari, "is that apathy aids the growth of extremist groups." (Translation: Al Hamishmar, March 7, 1984).

scious, find themselves naturally drawn to Black Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics and to equally conscious white and Jewish Americans. A similar coalition, minus organised Arab Americans, had previously charted an important and successful course in recent American history. The addition, Arab Americans, organised in ADC and other such organisations, have the potential of recharting a new course, which benefits all in the coalition, and the people of the Middle East as well.

* February 24, 1984: It is a sunny Friday afternoon. The walls of Neve Tertzat prison for women loom up stark and ominous. A shepherd chews a straw while her sheep roam next to the prison walls. A guard with a gun on his lap soaks up the sun. A few Palestinian families wait near the checkpoint for permission to enter.

A few hundred metres away a group of determined-looking women stand next to the highway and hold handwritten placards — most in Hebrew, a few in Arabic. They call themselves Women Against Occupation. And they are demonstrating — again — at Neve Tertzat prison in solidarity with the women Palestinian political prisoners jailed inside.

* March 9, 1984: An East Jerusalem cinema vibrates with energy from the packed Palestinian audience filling it to the rafters. Children singers are followed by women dancers on stage, as the Women's Work Committee — a Palestinian women's organisation — celebrates International Women's Day. Next an American-Israeli woman, accompanied by a Palestinian translator, climbs onto the stage to read a letter and statement of solidarity from her group. She is from Women Against Occupation. Her translator — a long-time friend — has only recently been released from town arrest. Women Against Occupation worked with her to get the town arrest lifted — distributing information on her case internationally and visiting her in her 'prison'-home. Now they meet as equals — and reaffirm their mutual support.

* October 1982: The Fifth National Feminist Conference in Haifa, sponsored by the Israeli women's movement, is underway. A workshop on the invasion of Lebanon — in full swing at that time — begins. Workshop 'facilitators' from Women Against the Invasion of Lebanon, from which WAO emerged, outline the intrinsic connections between militarism and the subjugation of women. They point out that women serve as alibis for the war and as nurturing support for the soldiers themselves. Basic women's rights such as abortion, they note, are side-tracked by the government's thirst for more bodies to feed the war machine. "Men are drafted into the army to kill Palestinians while women's wombs are mobilised to produce more soldiers and to solve the demographic problem," reads a Women Against the Invasion of Lebanon. A heated discussion follows.

By the end of the conference, more women have decided to join Women Against the Invasion of Lebanon, renewing the cadre of activists.

Initiating Change

The name of the present group — Women Against Occupation — clearly states their immediate goals. They seek both to give support to Palestinians under occupation and to educate Israelis about life in the occupied territories.

WAO does not have a specific political programme. As a group they mobilise around specific civil rights violations stemming from the occupation, particularly as they affect Palestinian women. As individuals they hold varying opinions about a just solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This general approach, they say, enables them to encourage other unpolarised Israeli women to take concrete actions against specific government policies. They are an independent group of 20 women, hooking up with other Palestinian, leftist or feminist groups whenever necessary. They are centred in Tel Aviv.

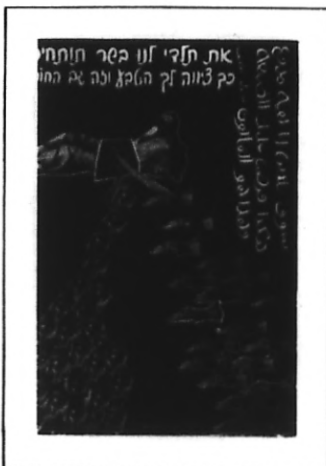
Neve Tertzat

WAO's most recent project, which

Women Against the Occupation won praise recently from women political prisoners in Neve Tertzat for their supportive role in the just-concluded strike at the jail. Manar Said of *Al Fajr* spoke to members of the new Israeli feminist group about the movement's history and political perspectives.

Women Against Occupation: In Solidarity With Palestinian Women

This WAO poster illustrates the role of women in Israel. It shows a woman as a mechanical baby-maker. To her womb are connected two umbilical cords: one connected to a group of identical boys dressed in soldiers' uniforms and the other to a group of miniaturised baby machine women. The quote from Bertold Brecht in Hebrew and Arabic states: "Don't give birth to children, who would be flesh for artillery. This is what nature has imposed on you and this is also the law."



WAO published the following background informational leaflet during their 1983 campaign to get the town arrest imposed on Amal Wahdan Labadi lifted.

Town Arrest Under Israeli Occupation

Amal Labadi is a 26-year-old Palestinian woman currently under town arrest in her village on the West Bank. Although many people associate town and house arrest with 'banning' as practiced by South Africa they are unaware that the state of Israel as well has been using this tactic on hundreds of Palestinians since its inception in 1948.

A holdover from the British Mandate Emergency Regulations which ruled over Palestine, town arrests are a means to limit political activity on a supralocal level. There is no court, no trial and no jury, hence the person has little legal recourse.

In the occupied territories the military governor of the area decides that the person is a 'danger to the security of the state' and confines her/him to their town during the day and to their home from sun-down to sun-up. Within the 'green line' (Israel's borders before 1967) the person is called before a judge, but any resemblance to legal proceedings stops there. The *Shin Bet*, Israel's FBI, passes on information to the judge while the person accused is not allowed to hear the charges on the grounds that it would violate security. Not knowing the charges the person is obviously powerless to defend her/himself.

Town arrests are usually imposed for six months at a time with an everpresent option for renewal at the end of the sentence. So far, the maximum amount served has been seven years. It is often given to political prisoners upon completion of their prison term to further inhibit any political activity. Since the whole concept of town arrest transcends the law, the fact that there is an Israeli law which forbids punishing a person more than once for the same crime is irrelevant.

Needless to say, daily life under town arrest is virtually unbearable. The person must report to the local police station between one to three times a day. In addition, the police may barge into the person's house in the middle of the night to check up on them. The detainee is thus under constant surveillance. Work or study often become impossible, especially if the person comes from a small village with limited resources.

Amal is but one example of the many who have faced or are now facing yet another side of Israeli repression. As of January 1984 there were over 70 people currently under town arrest. Because Israel is totally dependent on outside aid for its survival it is exquisitely sensitive to international public pressure. Therefore, we ask you to write letters to the Minister of Defence protesting town arrest.

ended in victory Thursday, March 8, 1984 was working to restore the rights of the women Palestinian political prisoners in Neve Tertzat who had been on strike since May 1983 against cooking food for and serving their guards. In punishment, the prison authorities had forbidden radios, newspapers, books and mail to the prisoners and reduced family

visits from twice a month to half-an-hour once every two months. The prisoners were also locked in their cells 23 hours a day.

WAO became involved in the effort to reinstate the prisoners' rights one month later. Neve Tertzat, according to one member, is 'an example' of life in the occupied territories; a symbol. Be-

cause it is a prison for women, it had generally been overlooked by progressive groups in Israel. Explained one member: "It's one of those things that falls between the cracks. The anti-war or men's groups tend to ignore it. More attention is usually given to the men political prisoners." Feminism and political awareness both helped determine that WAO would stand by the prisoners in Neve Tertzat until their rights were regained.

Since last summer WAO organised periodic demonstrations outside Neve Tertzat — mainly to boost the prisoners' morale inside but also to inform local Israelis. For this they published several Hebrew-language leaflets. They also regularly sent postcards to the inmates so they would know they were not forgotten but the prison authorities confiscated every single one, according to reports from prisoners' families. Following the October 31 tear-gassing of the prisoners, WAO members personally appealed to Knesset members to investigate the incident. As a result, an *ad hoc* committee was formed, including MKs Yossi Sarid, Shulamit Aloni and Tawfiq Toubi, who visited the prison to inspect the prisoners' conditions.

WAO also picketed Mordechai Wertheimer, the head of the Prison Services Authority, demanding immediate reinstatement of the prisoners' rights. On Women's Day 1984, WAO participated in a large Israeli-organised demonstration in Tel Aviv by carrying placards protesting conditions in Neve Tertzat prison. The following day WAO came to East Jerusalem for a Palestinian-sponsored Women's Day event. Again, Neve Tertzat was the central issue in the letter and statement of solidarity WAO read at the audience.

The authorities' decision since then to reinstate the prisoners' rights is seen as in part due to the publicity generated by such groups as WAO.

Targeting Town Arrest

During the summer of 1983, through working for the Neve Tertzat prisoners, WAO came into contact with Palestinian women's groups. They had already taken up the cause of individual Palestinian women, for example that of Leila Me'iri, a Bir Zeit University student council member who was put under successive town arrests for a total of 15 months, arrested, jailed for 38 days and then released without charges ever being formally brought against her. WAO publicised this case and visited Leila after she was released.

In December 1983 a friend of WAO was put under town arrest: Amal Wahdan, a member of the higher committee of the Women's Work Committee as well as the treasurer of the Abu Dis Union of Public Institution Workers. Again WAO quickly organised a publicity campaign, contacting women's groups internationally to mobilise public opinion to pressure the authorities to rescind the order. They also paid Amal solidarity visits in her home. Amal noted in her statement published by WAO: "One of the reasons I believe I got the town arrest was my relations with Women Against Occupation. Apparently when both peoples meet to discuss common issues this endangers security. But this will not stop us. If I can't travel to meet with peace-seeking Israelis they will come to me." Amal and WAO can take at least part of the credit for Amal's release from town arrest on February 12, 1984. It was the first time an active town arrest order had been cancelled by the authorities.

Through Amal's case WAO became concerned about town arrests in general and used innovative means to dramatise continued on page 10

The single issue which runs through all threats — social, political and economic — to the people of Palestine is Israeli seizure of the land. Within the pre-1967 boundaries of Israel, 93 percent of the land is under Israeli ownership today. Since 1967 Zionist efforts through successive Israeli governments, whether Labour or Likud, have sought to maximise *de facto* and titular control over the occupied territories.

Today, conservative estimates put the amount of West Bank land confiscated by Israel at 50 percent. By force the occupied territories, including annexed Jerusalem, are reluctant hosts to 143 exclusively Jewish colonies with 102,000 inhabitants — plans for 16 new settlements were announced March 14. According to figures collected by Israeli researcher Meron Benvenisti to be published in late April, 2,010,000 of the West Bank's 5.5 million dunums, not including Jerusalem, has been seized by Israel under a variety of pretexts. Four hundred thousand dunums, 25-30,000 of which has gone to Israeli agricultural settlement in the Jordan Valley, has been claimed as absentee property. Approximately 1,150,000 dunums has been taken as state land, previously under Jordanian government control, or for military and army training purposes — 5000 dunums of this total is now used by Israeli settlers. An unspecified amount has gone for 'public purposes,' including road construction, much of which services exclusively Jewish populations, connecting settlements to bypass Palestinian towns. Areas purchased by private and public Jewish bodies accounted for 100,000 dunums by 1983 though a World Zionist Organisation (WZO) purchase plan for 1983-86 calls for 31,500 more.

Most land confiscated today is taken by simple declarations of state land. According to computer surveys by Benvenisti's West Bank Data Base Project, 2,255,000 dunums, or 41 percent of the West Bank, is liable to seizure under this pretext. Fifty-six percent of this total has been so designated, but, says Benvenisti, "There is so much land under Israeli control now they have more than enough to keep busy with settlement plans to the year 2000. The remainder will be taken as needed."

A survey of recent land seizure practices in the West Bank confirms the massive scale and fast pace of Israeli confiscation and its debilitating effect on the local agricultural economy; the concentration of legal power in the hands of the military occupation and away from the civil courts even on civil issues like land; and the use of ever trickier devices to procure land under a legal guise — literally turning the legal clock back to Ottoman times. Concludes one West Bank economist, "We are witness to a great master-plan to liquidate Palestine, part of a process that began in the 1920s and '30s to dispossess and uproot Palestinians. The seizure of land is the prime weapon in the plan to Judaize and de-Palestinianise the character of the West Bank."

Maximising Territorial Control

Although Labour's attitude toward lands occupied by Israel in 1967 lacked some of the ideological fervour that characterises Likud's drive to populate 'Judea and Samaria', the results have been the same for the Palestinians affected. Said former Prime Minister Golda Meir following the 1967 war, "We were interested in the maximum amount of land with the minimum number of people," which explains, for example, the curious tongue-like borders of expanded Jerusalem reaching north of Kalandia airport to al-Bireh, neatly avoiding population centres adjacent to the northern road.

Land grabbing has been part and parcel of Zionist colonisation from the arrival of the first settlers. On the occasion of Land Day, Abu Elias Yaffawi spoke to local land experts and lawyers for *Al Fajr* about the latest developments in the steady removal of land from Arab ownership and control.

The New Sultans of the West Bank

Matityahu Drobless, head of the settlement division of the WZO, presented a revised five-year plan to the Israeli government in 1980 which envisioned 120,000 to 150,000 Jewish inhabitants in the West Bank by 1985. Advocate Felicia Langer, in a 1983 publication entitled *Review of Practices of Dispersal and Land Confiscation* summarises Israeli government actions as aimed at preventing territorial compromise in the future by expanding and linking Israeli settlements and using them to surround Arab population centres to impede their growth.

Land Seizure Practices

Israeli land seizure practises in the West Bank can be divided into three

Matar, 95 percent of the land seized under the security pretext was privately owned. Only five percent was considered state land under the Jordanians. In October 1983, 20,000 dunums of Jordan river front land confiscated in 1967 as part of a 'security zone' was transferred as prime agricultural land for Israeli settlement.

Successors to the Sultan

The Israeli High Court of Justice decision in the 1979 Elon Moreh case prompted Israeli land use planners and the occupation authorities to change their tactics, setting the stage for the major means of land seizure in use today. Because of a lack of agreement within the military establishment, the

owners, the burden of proof of ownership now rests with the Palestinian inhabitants. Up to the Elon Moreh case, the military was nominally put to task to explain 'security needs.' "In effect," says advocate Langer, "the doors have been closed on litigation." The appellants have 21 days to gather the necessary documents, land survey maps and aerial photographs to present to the military objections committee which, as Benvenisti points out, is headed by the senior legal advisor of the Israel Land Authority — obviously an interested party. Furthermore, the committee's decision is only a recommendation to the military court. Palestinian inhabitants lose most cases. Frequently, says Langer, "Settlers break into land and establish 'facts', under military escort, before landowners are even informed of a confiscation order. Settler 'andalism



Kufr Qallil near Nablus was the sight this week of Israeli road construction through the wheat crops and olive groves of land belonging to Palestinians. The road will connect the Elon Moreh and Bracha settlements bypassing Palestinian concentrations in the Nablus area.

phases: the initial concern with annexed Jerusalem; the 'security needs' pretext used in the occupied areas outside Jerusalem; and, from 1980 to the present, the declaration of large tracts of mostly barren land as 'state-owned.' Immediately following the '67 war, the annexed areas of an expanded Jerusalem were the prime target of Israeli land grabs. Large plots of private land were confiscated for exclusively Jewish 'public services.' These 'services' took the shape of the fortress colonies of Neve Ya'acov, Ramot, French Hill and Gilo which ring the city today and lie on the historic lands of Sheikh Jarrah, Kalandia, Beit Hanina, Beit Iksa, Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Shufat, Beit Safafa and Hizma. By 1980 a total of 21,750 dunums of prime real estate property — according to one estimate worth an average of JD20,000 per dunum — were taken from private landowners who had clear titles (*tabu*) to their property.

Prior to 1980, areas outside the municipal boundaries of annexed Jerusalem were seized using 'security needs' as the major pretext. According to West Bank researcher Ibrahim Matar, lands affected by military grabs during this period included property to which many landowners had clear titles or had registered for land tax purposes. In fact, says

High Court rejected the need for settlement on security grounds and the government has since avoided taking private, registered land. The military government now relies on Ottoman Law dating to the mid-nineteenth century, defining itself as 'successors to the Sultan.'

According to the Turkish Land Code, inhabitants of unregistered property must prove continuous cultivation of their lands over three consecutive years or it reverts back to the Sultan, in this case the state of Israel. Comments Benvenisti in a 1982 study: "Considering that two-thirds of the total area is without 'land settlement' (i.e., is unregistered) and that 55 percent of the total West Bank area is classified as 'pasture' and 'uncultivable,' it is clear that by 1982 there could be no more limitations on the availability of land in the West Bank for Jewish settlements." Virtually all land grabs since 1982 have been based on this Ottoman law. "The Israeli military governors are the new sultans of the West Bank," remarks Matar.

Not only do the 'Sultan's' successors now lay claim to vast areas of the West Bank but in the process they have concentrated means of litigation in the hands of the military. Since, according to the Turkish code, unregistered barren lands are simply reverting to their original

of Palestinian fields is, thus, more than petty destruction; the uprooting of olive trees or ploughing under of wheat can also destroy a Palestinian farmer's claim to his land in the eyes of the military. Last June Israeli settlers damaged large tracts of cultivated land near Bethlehem and on May 2 Bidya farmer Ibrahim Agra was shot dead by Israeli border guards as he stood before settler bulldozers on his land.

As if such dustbin legal tricks weren't enough, last year land registration itself was removed from the domain of the local Arab courts. Military Order 1060 issued June 29, 1983 as an amendment to the Jordanian Order of Registration of Immovable Property states: "A military committee has the sole jurisdiction to deal with any question pertaining to land for which a petition of registration was submitted." Noting that only a third of West Bank lands are officially registered, Langer says the major implication of MO 1060 is to "prevent local citizens from appealing land deals which are forged." Since 1979 the military government has declared open season on West Bank land and has allowed individual Israelis to purchase private plots. Land fraud is suspected in many such cases. Last February fraudulent land deals resulted in the loss of 12,000

dunums from Beit Illu and Kobar in the Ramallah district. Langer says that MO 1060 will only encourage land dealers to forge land documents.

Agriculture and the Loss of Land

Military restrictions and landlessness have had a severe impact on the West Bank's agricultural economy. Military Order 1015, implemented in mid-September last year, gives the military governor the power to specify areas for crop cultivation. Tomato and eggplant production was reduced by 20 percent over the previous year. The order has the double effect of limiting Palestinian cultivation while forcing farmers to leave arable land susceptible to Israeli designation as state land. Military restrictions on farmers couple with Israeli plans to reclaim confiscated land: a recent WZO plan states 31,900 dunums for afforestation and 140,000 for grazing. Comments Benvenisti, "Israeli land seizure is a double-edged sword: It will foster Israeli settlement and deliberately block Palestinian growth."

Aside from the economic loss in terms of sheer land value wrought by Israeli confiscations, the West Bank agricultural economy has been hard hit. In her recent study, Langer asserts that West Bank farmers are increasingly turning to wage labour in Israel following the loss of their land. Chris Smith in an article entitled "From Farmers into Labourers" (*Middle East International*, April 1983) evaluates the consequences of landlessness for West Bank farmers. During the past 10 years there has been a 10,000 decrease in the West Bank agricultural population while in the same period the number of West Bank workers in Israel has tripled, swelling the ranks of the so-called 'rural-based proletariat.' New methods of increasing crop production through irrigation are closed to Palestinians who are forbidden from digging wells without military permission. "Only four percent of West Bank agricultural land is irrigated by Palestinian farmers though agriculture represents one-third of the area's gross national product," says Smith.

One Million Dunums Closed

Ibrahim Matar summarises the situation on the ground in the West Bank: "Eight percent of the West Bank has been stolen for the direct use of exclusively Israeli civilian colonies, that is, land on which settlements are actually sitting or which is being used for agricultural purposes. An estimated 1,000,000 dunums, or 20 percent of the West Bank, has been 'closed' by the military government for the use of the army. Some of this is rich grazing land, for example, Tubas residents are not allowed to use, for either grazing or cultivation, 80,000 dunums of their own land. And an estimated 20 percent of the West Bank has been declared 'state land' in accordance with Ottoman land codes."

Most West Bank observers agree that the seizure of vast tracts of uncultivated land poses a threat equal if not more severe to that of lands under the direct control of Israeli settlements. Commenting on the quantity of land declared state-owned and the means by which it is taken, advocate Elias Khoury states, "The use of these different laws — Israeli, Jordanian, Mandatory and Ottoman — are different tactics developed for the same aim: to prevent me from exposing the illegality of such actions in front of the local courts, the High Court and the world. The ground is being prepared for annexation and settlement in violation of all international laws governing the rule of an occupying power."

Israeli military authorities reserve a particularly harsh form of collective punishment for families of Palestinians accused of anti-occupation actions: in many cases since 1967 the military has immediately demolished or closed the house of the entire family — before the suspect has even been brought to trial. This terrorising form of group punishment continues to be systematically carried out. The sickening drama of the demolition of a house has in recent years brought out the foreign press corps. In some celebrated cases, photographers and journalists have even been allowed to accompany the military 'on the job.' But house sealings, often much more painful over the long term but less dramatic, are largely ignored even by the local press.

Certain logistical circumstances deter the authorities from blowing up a house but instead they seal it shut.

According to a recent publication by the Ramallah-based human rights organisation Law in the Service of Man, demolitions or sealing measures are 'usually taken before formal charges have brought or guilt has been established in a court of law ... the speed of such action and the late hour at which it is carried out are usually effective in preventing the owner of the house from obtaining an interim court order to postpone or prevent the action.'

Lawyers who defend Palestinian political prisoners say that the occupation authorities close rather than destroy homes in the following circumstances: when the family of the accused rent and do not own a home; if the accused is under 16; if demolishing the house will obviously damage other homes; and if the accused is suspected of a minor offense.

Lonely

The six-member Salameh family lives in one room of a two-room rented flat in the Ramallah district village of Beitunia. They once owned land in their home village of Yalu, west of Ramallah — one of three Palestinian villages bulldozed after the 1967 war to 'readjust' Israel's border. The Salamehs, and most of the Yalu residents, fled their village during the war and took refuge in Beitunia. When the Israeli army destroyed the village, soldiers killed or blew up the village homes on top of the old men who remained.

Shukri Salameh, 25, left university in order to make a living for the family after his father's death seven years ago. He was arrested in August 1982. Two weeks after his arrest during the night of August 17 Israeli soldiers came to the house of his mother, Fatmeh. The soldiers, backed by huge reinforcements, declared a curfew on the village and came to Salameh's house armed with bricks and cement. The officer in charge accompanied by the local *mukhtar* gave the family 30 minutes to remove their belongings and then soldiers blocked off the door and windows of the room.

Since then, Fatmeh Salameh said, "Nobody has cared or thought of us. Even the local mayor has not visited us and the local residents, who consider us foreigners because we are from another village, have shunned us."

When Shukri was sentenced to 30 years in prison on security charges the family lost their only source of income. The local Israeli-controlled social service office stopped aiding the family because their son was convicted of anti-Israeli charges. Meanwhile their living situation seriously deteriorated. "Before the closure my sons were living in the big room and my daughters and I slept in the other room. Now all six of us must sleep in this small four-by-four-metre room," Fatmeh complained. "Sometimes my

House closure means punishing a whole family for the acts of one member. Thousands of Palestinian families in the occupied territories have suffered this fate. Daoud Kuttub of *Al Fajr* visited two such families in the Ramallah area recently to discuss the impact the sealing has had on their lives over the year.

House Sealing: A Cruel Form of Collective Punishment



The Wardat family of Dhahriyeh after military authorities sealed their home. Two sons were accused of stone-throwing. House sealings are a particularly harsh form of collective punishment — families usually have a short time to evacuate their homes (inset). /SF and AO photos

son who is sleeping on the window loft rolls off. Other times my feet are on the doorstep."

Family Separation

Hassan Salameh, a cousin to Shukri arrested at the same time, and his family, also Yalu refugees, were similarly punished. Although Hassan's 13-member family is renting a larger house in Beitunia, the effects of the collective punishment are felt as acutely. Twelve days before his arrest Ali's wife Nabila gave birth to twins. Nabila, who was a resident of Jordan, had been living in the West Bank on a visitor's permit until the approval of a pending family reunion application which would give her residency status. But with the arrest of Ali, Nabila's family reunion was rejected and the authorities have refused to renew the visitor permit.

Jamila Salameh complained bitterly about the predicament of her son's family: "If the authorities deport my daughter-in-law, who will take care of the children who will be allowed to stay, while their father serves a life term in an Israeli prison?"

Tight Kitchen

In Qatanna village, 14 kilometres north of Jerusalem, a house closure has resulted in an unbearable living situation. Kamal and Khadijeh Tabanah, along with their 7-year-old son Tha'er, had been living in a tiny three-by-two-and-a-half-metre room with an adjacent kitchen. The room was part of the larger family's five-room house where 25 people lived. On February 1, 1982, shortly after Kamal was arrested on suspicion of shooting at an Israeli bus, Israeli soldiers came and closed Kamal and Khadijeh's only room and kitchen.

Kamal's brother, Subhi gave up his two-by-two-metre kitchen so that Khadijeh and Tha'er could make a home. Subhi and his 10-member family were forced to live in a single four-by-four-metre room and both families must

make do with an outdoor kitchen.

The Israeli-controlled social services stopped any aid to the family and even the UNRWA social worker who promised help has never come back, they say.

Other representative cases of house closures include the family of Abd al-Aziz Shahin, a 15-year-old from the Bethlehem district village of Husan arrested on suspicion of transferring mines from a field where they had not been removed since 1967 to the main road, damaging an Israeli vehicle. The occupation authorities detained Abd al-Aziz and Ahmad Hamamreh, from the same village, until they became 16 and then tried them as adults.

The 13-member Shahin family were forced to live in a tent. Not only was the family in a difficult situation but the problem was inflicted on their son's new bride. They had been married for only a few days when the house was closed. She was forced to live along with the rest of the family in a tent. She gave birth in the tent while the rest of the family stood in the rain.

In most cases the families of the accused have to make do with available housing, usually with relatives or friends. The International Committee of the Red Cross sometimes provides tents for the families and often the family is able to find a house to rent or build alternative accommodation.

Legal actions by accused people's families to get closure orders rescinded are usually refused. Jerusalem legal experts told *Al Fajr* that they are not aware of any cases in which the authorities agreed to open a house sealed because of security violations.

In the meantime, families of Palestinian prisoners have a daily and constant reminder of the punishment which they have to bear for the alleged actions of their children. This reminder is not only in the sight of cement and bricks blocking entrances or in having to travel long distances to see a loved-one in prison but also in conditions of daily life without, perhaps, a kitchen, working or even sleeping space.

Academic life at Najah University, Nablus, is under threat. Najah, the largest Palestinian university in the West Bank, was first established as an educational institution in 1918. Students, staff and administration all agree that the present threats to its existence from the military and internal problems could lead to the burial of educational life.

The impact of Israeli military orders, the authorities' harassment of the university and its students and the absence of formally institutionalised relations between the university's bodies could eventually destroy academic operations which educate over 3300 BA and BS students in five colleges. Plans to enlarge to 10,000 students and to expand the curriculum to include schools of medicine, nursing, agriculture and fine arts by 1990 are under question.

A group of five lecturers and professors discussed in general for *Al Fajr* the events of February 19 (when Islamic bloc members at Najah University disrupted by force a celebration marking the second anniversary of the establishment of the Palestinian Communist Party and the university was closed until further notice — later set at three weeks — by the board of trustees) and cited the need for an integrated constitution which would effectively regulate relations between different bodies of the university. They echoed the students' demands for freedom of expression and education

Internal Dangers

Saeed Araqat, Najah University's public relations director, who made many references

to the clashes on campus between student blocs, told *Al Fajr*: "Under normal circumstances it is difficult to run the affairs of a university, and without a national authority it is an

Najah University is caught in a vice with pressure from the occupation authorities on the one side and internal disputes on the other. Said al-Ghazali was on campus recently for *Al Fajr*. He spoke to administrators, employees, lecturers and students about the current crisis.

Military Measures, Internal Antagonism Threaten Najah Studies

increasingly more and more difficult task. Najah University, like other international universities, reflects the politics and political groups of the country. There are all the Palestinian political and Islamic factions on campus."

Araqat has a theory about the growth of Islamic factions in Najah and other universities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "After the National Guidance Committee, which directed affairs in the occupied territories, was outlawed in 1981, the sacking of nationalist mayors and the freezing of the municipal councils and after the military blows against the PLO infrastructure in Lebanon, Muslim Brothers and religious right-wing fundamentalists are now attempting to control universities, national institutions and every place in the occupied lands, to fill the political vacuum."

"Unarmed civil war could occur, in fact is occurring, in the West Bank," Araqat predicted.

To try to head this off, Araqat proposed the institutionalisation of relations between the board of trustees, the administration of the university, the employees' union and the student council. He said a consultative committee should be established between these four bodies to discuss university matters.

Najah University almost had a new internal crisis March 21 when the student council wanted to commemorate the 16th anniversary of the Karamah battle in Jordan between PLO fighters and Israeli forces. Najah's council of deans banned the celebration to avoid clashes between students.

Sufian Sultan, coordinator of public relations for Najah University employees, concurred with Araqat's points on external and internal dangers undermining the academic life. Sultan, a lecturer in the biology department, said the student council is unable to carry out its union and national tasks because other bodies of the university refuse to recognise it as the sole legitimate representative and elected council. These bodies bypass its decisions, he said.

"Our union of employees, which represents 300 teachers and administrative staff, is also unable to perform an independent role in the university," he said. "The Najah board of trustees has not answered more than 13 letters sent by the employees' union to them. Our relations with the administration are unpredictable. It is impossible to establish stable relations with an administration whose chairperson has changed six times in two years."

Sultan, who is called 'Sheikh' by his colleagues, criticised Islamic bloc practices in the university as being "against the Islamic view and main principles." He said, "They do not believe in freedom of expression, nor, in my opinion, that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

Nasser al-Din Sha'er, head of the Islamic bloc, said: "We are against communism and totally against the Communist Party." Asked whether he recognises the PLO as the sole legitimate

representative for the Palestinian people, Sha'er, who is a senior student in the Islamic studies department, said, "We are against every body or organisation if they are against the Islamic nation's interests."

Nihad Masri, secretary of the board of trustees, told *Al Fajr* that a solution to the problems of the university and the maintenance of academic life needs many years. He said that it is impossible to immunise students against terror or to vaccinate them with democracy. "I do not blame one particular faction and refrain from blaming another," he said.

Masri suggested that tolerance, "the essence of democracy," must be maintained at the university and students must have a scale of priorities. "The first on the scale is the continuation of academic life on the university campus and the second is politics," he said.

Masri criticised the employees' union as being "incapable of imposing its respect on other university bodies." Nihad Masri, who is a pediatrician, refuted Sultan's complaints about unanswered letters, telling *Al Fajr* that he had never read any statement or letter sent by the board of trustees.

Head of the student council Adnan Milhem also pointed to the absence of effective regulations in the university. He said Najah University lacks "decisive laws and regulations to be implemented on all students."

Najah is presently tense as students still wait for the council of deans to issue its list of punishments against those responsible for the February violence and to propose procedures to prevent a repetition of the incidents. The council of deans received reports from the investigation committee on March 21, four days after classes resumed.

Will a comprehensive and just solution end the internal crisis and safeguard academic life at Najah? The coming weeks will give us the answer.

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Women Against Occupation

the issue. They organised a demonstration in Dizengoff Square, Tel Aviv, January 27, 1984 in which each participant carried a placard naming an individual under town arrest, his/her hometown and the date on which the town arrest began. One member commented on the effects of the demonstration: "It was interesting how many Israeli Jews were ignorant of town arrest or what it exactly was. Or the fact that it is enforced inside the 'green line.' Or that the Israeli authorities have been using it for years. A lot of people were shocked. It was an eye-opener."

Since then WAO have also published a leaflet on the Israeli use of town arrest (see box). WAO point out that as of January 1984, hundreds have been put under town arrest, both inside the 'green line' and in the occupied territories. Following the demonstration an *ad hoc* group was also formed called the Committee for the Lifting of Town Arrests, in which WAO members participate. That group is currently mobilising around the case of Abu Ali Shahin, a Gaza resident under house arrest who faces threatened deportation on April 5, 1984. On March 26 a 30-strong demonstration was held in support of Abu Ali by this group outside the Defence Ministry building in Tel Aviv. WAO themselves plan to focus attention on Palestinian women under town arrest as their next major effort.

Suppression

WAO face a serious problem of

apathy or aversion by the Israeli media. Although they regularly inform the various Israeli news organs of their upcoming events, they are rarely covered in the major Hebrew papers. Articles about WAO written for *Al Fajr* are regularly censored. WAO comments: "Israel is afraid the world will find out about its occupation of the land," their March 8 statement read. "It is also afraid of unity. Therefore the struggle (of Palestinian and Israeli women together) must continue until we are liberated from the prison of the state of Israel."

In spite of, and perhaps because of, this suppression, WAO feel their role to be one largely of educating what they believe is an uninformed public. One member pin-pointed the Israeli avoidance of facts: "They are afraid of publicity. They're incredible at portraying an image to the world which is so completely false." WAO have worked hard to overcome the information gap native to their society and are convinced that other Israelis want to know about life for the Palestinians under occupation.

Making Connections: The History of the Group

WAO began as an anti-war group, one among several in Israel, in June 1982, soon after the invasion of Lebanon began. Women Against the Invasion of Lebanon, as they called themselves then, were unique as an all-women's group. They emphasised strongly with the situation of the women in Lebanon, coping with the war. It also enabled them to analyse how Israel's militarism depends on a "sexual division of Jewish labour." This was made very clear by the timing of the debate over abortion in the

Knesset — shortly after the invasion had begun. Their statement on this issue read: "Several months after the war began, the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) again debated the abortion law, with some factions unsuccessfully seeking elimination of the psychological clause. It is not a coincidence that the issue of abortion comes up in the midst of war. Dr. Haim Sadan, advisor to the Minister of Health, said in an interview that 'abortions have resulted in the loss of twenty divisions since the creation of the state.'"

Sadan's statement was both anti-woman and anti-Palestinian. It showed clearly how the government's policies rely on the suppression of both. Women Against the Invasion noted this relationship in the same statement: "The Jewish woman is thus viewed as a machine of reproduction. Her ability to reproduce is her most valued asset. Consequently, to struggle for abortion rights challenges the state in a fundamental way." Women Against the Invasion rejected their supposed role — passive acceptance of the way their bodies are used for national aims — and began to make the connections between this war, the invasion of Lebanon, and the larger schemes of the government.

Some members said it was the Sabra and Shatila massacres, others said it was their anti-war activism and some cited work camps or experience in progressive Israeli political parties which formed their anti-occupation stance, rather than just protesting against the invasion. Each member recalls significant events in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict which influenced their own thinking on the issue: Arafat's appearance at the UN, the Black Panthers movement (for equal opportunity for Sephardic Jews), Udi Adiv's conviction (for meeting with

the PLO), Giora Neuman's trial (for refusing to serve in the army) and the scandal about possible government complicity in the incident at Ma'alot (where schoolchildren died when a school held by guerrillas was stormed). Events like these started them questioning their government's version of reality. To a woman they all said they had to seek out the Palestinian version of events. Through contacts with Palestinians in the occupied territories and inside the 'green line' they began to piece together a picture of life under occupation. As one member put it: "Veils dropped. The small things began to fall into a picture." Another said, "You have to seek them (the Palestinians) out or else you can go through your whole life thinking they're street cleaners, black workers, etc." Despite this awareness, for many it still took the invasion to jolt them into action against the occupation they had unthinkingly tolerated until then.

In any case, during the summer of 1983 the Women Against the Invasion of Lebanon officially became Women Against Occupation. While the members have stayed the same, the focus has changed. And they are eager to talk about their work, their insights. They think they have simple yet urgent grounds for communicating with Israeli women in general, even the apolitical or pro-establishment women. One member put it this way: "You can appeal to them as women who want to have abortions while the war is going on. Or you can start making the connections, point out how things relate to them. For example, the economic situation (breaking under the weight of paying for the occupation). Or you can point out to them that their sons are getting killed and just ask them: What are they fighting for?"

PALESTINE AND LITERATURE

A sea for the new September
Our autumn's approaching the gates!
A sea for the bitter hymn.

For Beirut we recited the whole poem.

A sea for the middle of the day
A sea for the banners of doves
For our shadow
For our individual weapons.

A sea for the borrowed age
For your hands.
How many a wave of the sea
Has robbed your hand of waving,
Of my waiting?

Cast our shape to the sea!
Leave the bag of storms by the first rock
And carry your emptiness
And my defeat.

And the heart was able to throw
To a window its last greeting.
The heart was able to howl
And promise the deserts hot tears.

A sea for our sake!
Let your wounded body ring bells
For the bitter autumn
The deserts will expand
In a short while
When the sky pounces on your steps.

Now is a sea. Now's a sea
That is all sea.
And he who has no land,
For him there is no sea.
And the sea's our picture
So, don't go away totally.
It's only another exile,
Don't go away totally.

And now, when things are masters
And this silence comes to us like arrows,
Will we sing as we sang?
Ah! Our blood! The scandal!
Will you come to them as hail?
These are nations that pass
Strike your enemy!
There is no escape!

Beirut is our picture
Beirut's our revealed verse.
Either we will be
Or it will not be.

I don't love you.
How much do I love you?
Two clouds, you and I
And two watchmen
Crowning awareness with a cry
Stretching the night
Till the end of night.
I say, when I say,
Beirut town is not my woman
Beirut the place is my enduring revolver
And Beirut the time is the essence
Of the moment smeared with smoke.

3 Beirut—No!
My back is a bulwark to the sea, and—No!
I might lose the world—Yes.
I might lose words and memory.
But now I say No!
Is it the last of the shots?
No. Is it all that's left
Of the air of this earth?
No. Is it all that's left
Of the spirit's ruin?
No. Beirut—No!

Our stumps are our names.
No! No exit!
The veil covering the veil

Poem in Praise of the Tall Shadow

by Mahmoud Darwish

That covers the veil
Has fallen. The veil has fallen.
You have no brothers, my brother,
No friends, my friend.
No mast and no water
You have no cure and no sky
No blood and no sail
No front and no behind.
So, blockage your siege!
There's no escape!
Your arm has fallen off?
Pick it up and strike your enemy!
No escape!
I have fallen beside you?
Pick me up and strike your enemy!
You're free now!
Free
And free.
Your dead and your wounded
Are your ammunition.
So, strike with them.
Strike your enemy!
There is no escape!

Naked we are
No horizon covering us
And no grave hiding us.
And Oh!
O day of Beirut, broken at noon
Hurry a little, hurry
So we know where's our last cry.

Beirut in the afternoon
Insects multiply
Humidity rises
Muscles relax
We feel a congestion for the earth
In our joints, and we scream,
"O hero, break in us!"

Evening over Beirut.
Marble's exuding blood
And the doves are killing me.
To whom shall I raise my words a roof
While the earth is carried by clouds
Which move, when they move,
In the direction of my labyrinth!

I fix my eyes on the revolver
As it lies on the edge of the bed.
I crave it, and it will save me.
Mere talk will save me.
Darkness is all that's in us.
Darkness.

Beirut at night
There is no dark more black
Than this darkness.
My death illuminates me.
Do they from stone carve out drowsiness?
Do they from palms beat out armaments?
A victim
Has killed
His victim
Whose identity is mine.

Sabra's a sleeping girl.
The men have parted on their journey
The war went to sleep
For two small nights.
And Beirut offered obedience
And became a capitol.
A long night attends
Upon the dreams in Sabra,
While Sabra sleeps.

How many times will you go away?
And for how long will you travel?
And to what dream?
And if you should come back some day,

To what exile will you return?
To what exile will you return?

Sabra tears at her uncovered breast
How many times
Will the flower have to open?
And how many times
Will the revolution
Have to move on?

They have parted and said nothing
About their return.
They've withered and did not turn
From the fiery redness of the rose.
They came back but did not return
To the beginning of the journey.
And this age is a youth
Who has run away from the kiss.

No. I don't have an exile
So I can say I have a country.
God! What an age is this!

People of Lebanon, farewell!
Thanks for every little tree
That bore my blood
To illuminate for the poor
The feast of bread
Or to shed light on my face
For the occupier
So he can see my face
And put on his deceit.

Thanks for every cloud
That covered my hand
Or wet my lips
Until it gave the enemies
A gateway, or a veil.
Thanks for every revolver
That covered my exit
With rice and flowers
Or that cried, or ululated
As much as it could.
O tear that is all
That remains from a country
And I use to lean memory on
And rays of light!
People of Lebanon, farewell!

Two bodies in the coffin
Of this east we are
Supplying the forgotten bag of
Provisions with screams,
Glad tidings of Christmas we are
And two pictures for a moment of grace
Which tried, and tried, and tried
To present the east with
The notion of collectivity.
People of Lebanon, farewell!

Two names we are for unity
We wanted to exist by our own will
So that people in this world
Are not turned into chattel.
People of Lebanon, farewell!

And now, we have finished our mission
Since the brother has united with the
enemy
And we have not found a land
Over which we could aim our blood
And erect it into citadels.
People of Lebanon, farewell!

Beirut's our haversack
Beirut's our nativity.

The sea's our surprise, our gaiety
Our exile and our game.

And the sea's the original land
Of our call. The sea's image.
And he who has no land
Has no sea.

The sea in front of you, in you
The sea behind you.
Above this sea, another sea
And a sea under it.
You are the son of this sea.
How we used to love dark blue
Except for our broken shadow
Over the sea! And how many
A feast did we prepare
For the month of September!

What do you want
While from one epic to another
You march like a banner?
And what use are flags?
Did they protect the city
From the shrapnel of a single bomb?

What do you want?

A newspaper?
Will papers breed a sparrow
Or weave an ear of wheat?

What do you want?
Ribbons?
Does the policeman know where
This little earth will become
Pregnant with the coming winds?

What do you want?
Lordship over the sand?
You are the lord of our spirit
O master of this changing universe!

Therefore, go.
There is no place for you
Nor dunghill thrones.
The freedom of bringing into being
Is yours. The creator of pathways
You are, and the reverser of the journey.

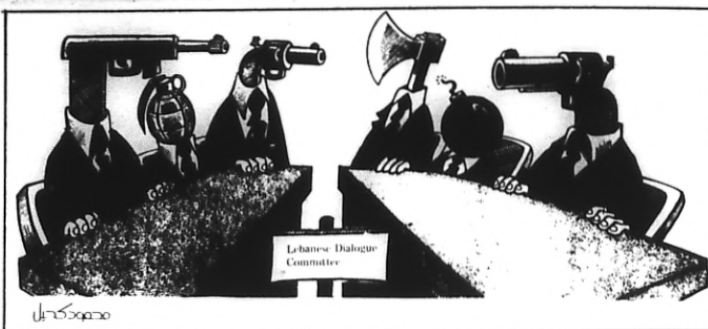
Go poor, like a prayer
And barefoot, like a riser
In the path of pebbles.
And go postponed, like a carnation.

No. You're not Adam so I can say
You left Beirut, Amman, or Jaffa
While you are the problem. So, go.
You are wider than other people's
Countries. Wider than the void
Of the guillotine.
Go in surrender to the rightness
Of your heart, Shedding big cities
And the sky hanging over.
Set up an earth under
The palm of your little hand—
A tree
An idea
Or an ear of wheat.
How many a prophet has used you
To gain experience!
How much did he suffer
To put his temple in order!
A waste of time for you, proud one,
To attempt ownership, or a kingdom.
So, march to Golgotha
And ascend with me
To bring back the beginning
To the dispersed spirit.

What do you want,
While you're the lord of our spirit?
O lord of the changing universe
Lord of the ember
Lord of the flame!
How wide, the revolution,
How narrow the journey.
How huge the idea,
And how small the state!

(Reprinted from Palestine Focus, January
1984. Translation by Mahmoud Hamdan.)

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS



The upcoming PLO leaders' meeting in Aden, the Lebanese civil war and Land Day activities were the main topics of the local press this week.

All three Palestinian dailies gave their extensive coverage to the forthcoming Aden talks in which leaders of the major PLO factions will participate.

The continued bloodshed in Lebanon coupled with the French troop withdrawal received considerable coverage in the Arabic press. Al Fajr and Al Sha'ab gave their top spots two days in a row to Land Day activities. Voluntary work, demonstrations and arrests were all given prime coverage.

Howe's Statement and Practical Implementation

The statement by British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe to the press on the eve of Queen Elizabeth's visit to Jordan included three important points on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He confirmed the Palestinian cause is the crux of the conflict;

— the necessity of PLO participation in any peace talks in the Middle East; and

— the readiness of the European community to back a new peace initiative that comes from the conflicting parties.

Howe's confirmation that the Palestinian cause is the crux of the conflict is a right step towards solving the crisis. So is his request that the PLO participate in any peace talks. The readiness of the European community to support a peace initiative proposed by the conflicting parties is also logical because of the position of this community in the world that allows it to remain neutral.

These courageous and frank statements by a ranking British official indicate that Britain is taking on a more balanced policy towards the Palestinian issue.

However, we still must be sure that Britain will put into practice these ideas by announcing, for example, that it is ready to receive a ranking Palestinian delegation that represents the PLO. This was rejected by the Thatcher government when the seven-man Arab committee formed from the Fez summit visited the countries of permanent members in the Security Council.

We want Britain, as proof of the courageous statement made by its foreign secretary, to pressure Israel and its ally, the US, to persuade them of the necessity of recognising the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and an independent state.

AL FAJR
March 27

Unity of the Ranks

The meetings of the Com-

mittee of Heads of Local Arab Councils, the Committee for the Defence of the Land and other popular meetings prove that our people is aware, united and standing behind its full rights.

The unity during Land Day, March 30, 1976, proved that it was not a one-time thing but an expression of long experience and a conclusion that national unity is the way to protect the land and dignity.

The land was lost in the absence of this unity and the cooperation of the different parties. The policy of suppression was able to push us back and prevented public opinion from hearing us. But with unity we were able to protect the land and bolster our national identity. We united the local Arab councils and accomplished several things on the road to development.

All that we have accomplished is little compared to what is our right to have. We did not accomplish anything because of the official policy of the government but in spite of the official alignment and Likud policies. We accomplished things because of our national democratic unity among all the ranks: workers, peasants, intellectuals, traders, professionals, and students, men and women.

As we prepare to celebrate the eighth anniversary of Land Day, we should remember the meaning of this day. To hold tribute to the martyrs and defend the land requires that this popular unity be strengthened by overcoming any attempts to divide the ranks.

AL ITTIHAD
March 28

Disagreement Among Lebanese Nationalists

We have noticed that the hostile media did not waste time to talk about the National Salvation Front after Suleiman Franjeh withdrew from it or about the tragic incident which the Murabitoun suffered at the hands of the militias of the Progressive Socialist Party. The media actually tried to exaggerate these two issues and said that

the multinational force should return to Lebanon.

It is true Franjeh withdrew from the National Salvation Front and that the incident among the nationalists would hurt them but this does not mean the collapse of the NSF and an increase in the dispute among the Lebanese nationalists.

Damascus hosted during the past two days several meetings for Lebanese leaders that included Walid Jumblatt, Nabih Berri, George Hawi, Ina'am Ra'ad and Assem Qousouh. These are the Lebanese leaders who were able to contain the fighting between the socialists and the Murabitoun.

At the same time there is talk about a new national salvation front being formed that would leave people like Franjeh out, while bringing in new younger elements. The new front may be called the 'Political Reform Front.'

The national leaders still have responsibilities no less than they have already achieved. Their unity will help them double these achievements until they win the important seats in the government after they defeat the Gemayel family and its allies.

AL MITHAQ
March 28

Israel and South Lebanon

The international media reported yesterday on bloody clashes in a south Lebanese village. The clashes were sparked by the killing of three residents of the village by the so-called south Lebanon Army, which in reality is Sa'ad Haddad's militia, after these three men were suspected of resisting the Israeli occupation.

These events expose the Israeli policy in south Lebanon, which attempts to create Lebanese groups supportive of Israel to quell any resistance movement in the villages.

The past two years have indicated the level of resistance to the Israeli occupation in south Lebanon. The Shi'ite alternative, which the Israeli politicians were looking for, vanished. The citizens of south Lebanon proved to everyone that they stand united

in their demand for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from their lands.

Israel is preparing for an election campaign in which the Lebanon involvement will be one of the main issues. But it seems Israel will continue efforts to create a buffer zone in south Lebanon, supervised by the Israeli army, without exposing its personnel to more losses. At the same time the Lebanese militias, backed by Israel, will do its dirty work in the towns and villages.

However, Israel will discover at the end that it has only one choice — full and unconditional withdrawal from south Lebanon. This will bring full defeat to all of the Israeli goals set for invading Lebanon on June 4, 1982.

AL SHA'AB
March 29

An Initiative that Deserves Support

Four Palestinian organisations presented as a gift to the Palestinian people and the Arab liberation movements on Land Day a responsible programme for unity in the PLO and for solving any outstanding disputes among them, as well as for planning for the struggle for self-determination and an independent state. This programme received the blessings of Democratic Yemen and the Syrian and Lebanese Communist parties.

The bases of the dialogue showed responsibility and avoided any accusations. These four organisations did not come out with this programme based on personal goals but based it on the decisions of the Palestine National Council in its Algiers session.

Therefore, no party has any excuse any longer not to agree to this initiative which came from groups known for their long struggle and is supported by Democratic Yemen and two communist parties known for their solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people.

The initiative that is based on the decisions of the PNC agrees at the same time with the position of the revolutionary people supportive of the Palestinian

people, particularly the Soviet Union.

Therefore, this initiative should succeed; if it is rejected by any party, this means rejecting the decisions of the PNC and opposing the major allies of the Palestinian resistance movement. This will not be acceptable to the Palestinian people or any Palestinian organisation or individual that considers themselves struggling in defence of the Palestinian rights and liberation in this region.

We hope every party, particularly the Fatah leadership, will agree to this initiative so that they can implement the PNC decisions.

AL TALIA
March 29

Role of the Onlooker

The Arab media are busy these days trying to figure out who will win or lose in the next Knesset elections scheduled for this summer and what will happen afterwards.

When the summer comes and the elections are over, without producing anything new in the Arab-Israeli conflict (even if it does, it probably will not be in the Arab interests), the Arab media will switch their attention to the US presidential elections scheduled for the fall. They will try to predict once again and build up expectations on the policy the new president will have on the Middle East.

Yet, the Arab media are not concerned with reporting what is happening inside the Arab world and the activities of the Arab League, if there are any at all, or trying to predict the results of Arab events and their impact on the Arab and Palestinian cause. This, of course, does not interest the Arabs.

This indicates that the Arab world, in its present weak situation, is not able to act or react. Its role is that of an onlooker only, influenced by what happens anywhere without having any power to influence events.

AL QUDS
March 31

Israelis Racist—Official

Fifty-five percent of Israelis want restrictions imposed on Arabs, "so that they don't become a majority"; 49 percent of the Jewish population in the country want the state to encourage Arabs to emigrate; 64 percent maintain controls of Arabs should be increased; 65 percent

think that most of the Arabs in Israel cannot be trusted.

The Galilee Jewish population is even more extreme in its attitude towards Arabs. For instance, 72 percent of the Galilee Jews side on imposition of limitations on the Arabs, so they don't become a majority in the

country; 57 percent of the Galilee Jews want the state to encourage Arabs to leave the country and 78 percent maintain that inspection of Arabs should be increased. These findings were disclosed on March 30 in a study-day on the subject of Arabs and Jews in the Galilee that took place in Haifa University, initiated by the Jewish-Arab Centre. (Translation: HaAretz, April 1, 1984)

TNT Goes International, Threatens Germans

BONN — The West German police are examining a threat to carry out terrorist acts against German factories that produce arms for Arab countries. The announcement is being distributed by Terror Against Terror (TNT) but so far the police have not determined whether the announcement is accurate or forged, according to HaAretz.

The German press almost

totally ignored the announcement written in strong language.

Pictures of the Israeli flag and the state seal appeared on the written threats which had no address or signature. The announcement read: "The Israeli patriotic organisation TNT punishes everyone who acts to endanger Israel. TNT also protects Israel against all those who raise

doubts about the Jews' right to the Holy Land."

Sa'ad al-Din al-Alami, the Jerusalem Mufti, said in an interview on British television that he recently received anonymous letters from Israelis threatening "to kill all the Muslims" if they are not permitted to pray on the Temple Mount. (Translation: HaAretz, March 30, 1984).

Neturei Karta Calls for Poll Boycott

Leaders of Neturei Karta, the anti-Zionist Orthodox Jewish organisation, are calling upon coreligionists to join them in boycotting the coming Israeli Knesset elections.

The seven-member supreme council of the Neturei Karta movement has decided to financially support Orthodox institutions as a means of countering Israeli government funding to them through the orthodox party Agudat Israel.

Rabbi Moshe Hirsch, spokesperson for Neturei Karta, told *Al Fajr* that the decision was taken in the aftermath of

the March 27 show of force demonstration organised by arch-rivals Agudat Israel. Hirsch said: "It will not be difficult to counteract the bait extended by Agudat Israel through distributing impure monies from Zionist treasuries. We have at our disposal abundant funds obtained from non-Zionist sources."

Neturei Karta and non-committed Agudat Israel Orthodox members have in the past boycotted all elections related to the "Zionist state of Israel," Hirsch said. He added that in principle, all Agudat Israel con-

stituents are anti-Zionist but "money talks."

Neturei Karta leaders who consider themselves Palestinian Jews are expecting to benefit from PLO-Jordanian steadfastness funds as a means of strengthening the dissociation of Palestinian Jews from the Zionist establishment and its institutions.

Neturei Karta has never recognised the state of Israel or any of the Zionist organisations tied to it. Recently they formally requested to be incorporated into the Palestinian-Jordanian confederation, if and when it takes place.

Archaeologists Debate Meaning of Terms

An International Congress on Biblical Archaeology, sponsored by the Israel Exploration Society, opened at the Jerusalem Hilton Sunday, April 1. The congress, drawing over 800 participants, according to the organisers, will be a forum for the presentation of papers on different subjects, including some focusing on the current debate in archaeological circles over the term 'Biblical archaeology.' The congress will last until Thursday, April 5.

The controversy has been created as a result of the terminology used in dating periods which has been developed by archaeologists. Because of the inability to date some finds accurately, broad classifications such as 'the Bronze Age' have been used. But these are now considered by some to be too vague. A suggestion was that a new system be developed based

on historical cultures, which have more specific dates. But these have quickly acquired political overtones. 'Biblical archaeology,' for example, links the Israelite culture to the present Israel in the minds of many.

The ideal solution, explained one observer, would be to develop a dating system without political connotations, preferably based on historical cultural periods. However, this goal is proving elusive; strong support was still shown in the congress for the term 'Biblical archaeology.'

In the opening speeches April 1 the audience was addressed by two Israeli scholars and two politicians. Menachem Savidor, speaker of the Knesset, told the gathered archaeologists: "No other field has so contributed to the identification of my people with their culture. No other nation on earth draws from its past its hopes and fears for the future as we do."

Three papers were also presented in the opening. Yigal Yadin, former deputy prime minister of Israel, a general in the army and an archaeologist, argued that the term 'Biblical archaeology' is better than other names such as 'Syro-Palestinian archaeology,' which some scholars have preferred as more geographically correct. He claimed that "without the Biblical material the archaeologist becomes a mere technician in the revealing of accumulations of cultures, as if of a terra incognita." He stated that if it weren't for the Bible, there wouldn't even be a discipline of Biblical archaeology, and thus the discipline should take the Bible as its main frame of reference. Yadin was the most transparent in his wish that archaeologists, as historians, would cling to the Bible as their main source, rather than relying on other outside data, said a foreign observer at the congress.

April 5

JERUSALEM — A concert of sonatas and chaconnes at the Redeemer Church, Old City, 8:30 pm. Tel: 02-282543.

April 6

JERUSALEM — The Working Women's Committee invite all to

an exhibit of children's educational toys at their committee headquarters, on Old Radio Road.

April 7

JERUSALEM — Organ concert by Professor Depenheuer at Dormition Abbey, 8:30 pm., Mount Zion. Tel: 02-719927.

BZU Takes to the Land for Land Day

Hundreds of students, faculty and employees at Bir Zeit University spent all of March 30 working on land surrounding the university's new campus. Volunteers cleared thorns, ploughed fields and built stone walls till late in the night.

Other university volunteers

went to the nearby villages of Jifna and Arrara and worked there.

Volunteers belonging to the Social Work Youth Movement carried out work in the villages of Ras Karkar, Sinjil and Beitunia. (Translation: Al Sha'ab, March 31, 1984)

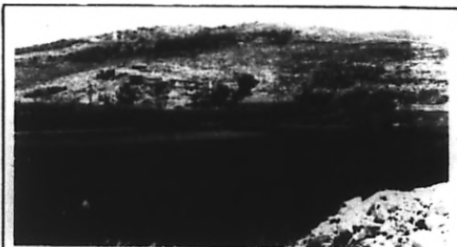
Arrests During Um al-Fahm Work

Several Arab and Jewish youths were prevented March 31 by the police from carrying out volunteer work in the al-Rawha area of Um al-Fahm village. The area has been turned by the government into a zone for military manoeuvres.

Um al-Fahm's Ansar organisation called for a volunteer day on the land to recultivate it as part of its Land Day activities. Several Jewish youths arrived in the village to take part in the voluntary day. Police set up

checkpoints on the road leading to al-Rawha and arrested several youths on charges of not possessing identity cards. The youths were released three hours later after the village's council head, Hashim Mahamid, intervened.

Local councils in the Triangle have been asking the government to move the military training bases away from their villages so that the residents can freely cultivate their lands. (Translation: Al Itihad, April 1, 1984)



Two bulldozers arrived on the eight dunum plot of Bakr Ahmad Bakr at Kufr Qalil, near Nablus, March 29 and ploughed up one dunum of wheat and olive trees. Four settlers and two soldiers who accompanied the workers said they were working on a road to Elon Moreh settlement. The new route is 60 metres from the existing road.

Psychological Problems Increase Among Soldiers

The number of referrals to psychiatric clinics in Jerusalem has increased recently by a significant number and in some clinics the number has doubled. Among those who are referred are a noticeable number of youths in their 20s. In a conversation with HaAretz, a senior psychiatrist disclosed that among the youths there is a new phenomenon of distress set against a background of incapability for military service.

The doctor emphasised that these are not youths who ask for exemption from the army but those who served in the army (regular and reserves) in the normal way and now complain they cannot return to service. The psychiatrist, whose treatment area includes a large part of Jerusalem, indicated that this is a new phenomenon.

Commenting on the wave

of suicides and attempted suicides taking place in Jerusalem, the psychiatrist said that he cannot explain their concentration in the city although he pointed to a steep increase in the number of applicants to psychiatric clinics, among them those unable to deal with pressure situations. He said the general background of a tense atmosphere, increasing economic uncertainty and distress causes a deterioration in the mental balance of people who so far function on the threshold.

There is doubt, in his opinion, that there is something of a chain reaction about the suicide phenomenon. He said the wide publicity they receive is important despite the chain reaction factor because the publicity raises awareness and knowledge of community treatment centres. (Translation: HaAretz, February 21, 1984).

UNRWA Begins Nutrition Study

Nutrition Survey

The UNRWA Health Department in collaboration with the World Health Organisation is planning to conduct a nutrition survey to assess the nutritional status of refugee children from

birth to three years old and of pregnant women and nursing mothers. The survey, which will cover a sample of 8000 persons, will be conducted in Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza. It will start on April 23, according to an UNRWA statement.



WEEKLY REVIEW

March 25, 1984

FIREBOMB

SEVERE SENTENCE FOR REFUSING TO SERVE

BAQEIA'A — Walid Naief Salim was sentenced to 18 months in prison for refusing to serve in the Israeli army. Salim has been in jail for two months. Others facing similar charges usually receive a lesser sentence.

March 26, 1984

FOUR SENTENCED

JERUSALEM — Four detainees at Fara's prison received harsh sentences from a Nablus military court. Khalid Issa Salameh, 19, was sentenced to three months, of which 45 days are suspended, on charges of throwing a stone at Israeli soldiers.

Imad Saleh Daoud was sentenced to 57 days on similar charges. Ghassan Fahd Jodeh was given a six-month prison term. His father was fined IS30,000 on the charge given to his son.

STUDENT IMPRISONED

HEBRON — A Hebron student, Abd al-Hakim Bakri, was sentenced to a 20-day prison term, already served, and a fine of IS10,000 on security charges.

SHAWWA, FREIJ MEET SHULTZ

WASHINGTON — Dismissed Gaza Mayor Rashad Shawwa and Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij met US Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington. The meeting discussed the situation in the West Bank and King Hussein's criticism of US policies.

JOURNALIST BANNED FROM OTs

ACRE — *Al Ittihad* correspondent in the Acre area Mahmoud Abu Shanab was ordered for the 17th consecutive year, since 1967, not to enter the West Bank and Gaza.

ISRAELI SETTLEMENT OF HEBRON

JERUSALEM — Shopowners at the Sultan's Pools in Hebron received notices from the Israeli-run city council to vacate their shops as soon as possible. Shopowners feel the military wants to take over the area, as it did with the central market and bus station, to link the Israeli settlement in Hebron with the Ibrahim Mosque.

An Israeli High Court earlier issued an order stopping the military from taking over the bus station. However, the order was not heeded, as more settlers are working on changing the station into a settlement.

NABLUS — A firebomb was thrown at an Israeli military vehicle in Nablus. Army forces surrounded the area and started a search for the resisters.

STUDENTS OF TEACHERS COLLEGE STRIKE

RAMALLAH — Students of the UNRWA-run Teachers College in Ramallah struck in protest on the 40th day of a ban preventing the college's second-year students from returning to school. Tired students also struck in support of the Teachers College students, demanding that the school administration allow the second-year

MUHATTAH PRISONERS END STRIKE

WEST BANK — Political prisoners at Muhattah prison in Jordan ended their open hunger strike last Saturday, according to reports reaching here today. The strike had been observed since March 8. The 78 prisoners were protesting their bad treatment and detention for long periods without trial.

The prisoners called the strike off after the Jordanian authorities promised to release them and allow them to return to the West Bank, according to reports.

FIRE IN GAZA FACTORY

GAZA — Fire broke out in a citrus factory in Gaza but was extinguished within two hours. Police have begun investigating the cause of the fire.

STUDENTS STRIKE

JERUSALEM — Students at Ram-



On March 29 Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens declared that more than US\$ 1 billion was spent on the war in Lebanon since the 1982 invasion. Three days later Mordechai Gur of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee said the war in Lebanon is costing Israel US\$ 800,000 a day.



students to resume classes without prior conditions.

March 27, 1984

TWO BOMBS IN JERUSALEM

Two explosive devices were discovered in Jerusalem but were safely diffused. One bomb was found at a bus stop and the other near the train station on the Jerusalem-Bethlehem road.

All East Jerusalem residents were prevented from travelling to Jordan.

TWO ARRABEH YOUTHS SENTENCED

ACRE — Two Arrabeh youths were given prison terms by an Acre magistrates court. Said Tawfiq Yasin was given five years, three of which are suspended,

and fined IS100,000 on charges of placing a dummy bomb on a road near Allaboun.

Nazih Omar Bakrieh was sentenced to one year and fined IS50,000 on charges of booby-trapping tyres.

SETTLERS DESTROY HOUSE

YATTA — Settlers in the Hebron area demolished a house belonging to Khalid Mahmoud Iqbeith, from Yatta, after they assaulted the house's owner. The settlers warned the Palestinian family from returning to the area.

GAZA RESIDENTS RESTRICTED

GAZA — Gaza military governor banned residents of the city from entering the West Bank and Arab villages inside the 'green line' for two days, March 30 and 31.

TOWN ARREST APPEAL

NABLUS — Walid Hamdallah, Anabta mayor, Samir Sbeith, president of Bir Zeit University's student council, Jamal Shati, from Najah University, and Abdallah Barakat Faqou'ah, from Bethlehem University, all made appeals against their town arrest orders before the Nablus military objections committee.

ARRESTED FOR FLAG

Israel Radio said two youths from Mghar were arrested by Tiberias police and questioned about raising the Palestinian flag on an electric pylon in the town.

March 28, 1984

NABLUS STUDENTS INTERROGATED

NABLUS — Fifty students from Farouq Secondary School in Nablus were summoned by the military and interrogated.

PRICES UP

TEL AVIV — Fuel prices went up 14 percent, electricity costs are expected to increase by 10 percent and water prices will increase by 35 percent, beginning April 1.

HALHOUL YOUTH IMPRISONED

HEBRON — A Nablus military court sentenced Iyad Ahmad Misha'al, a student from Halhoul, to a two-month prison term and a fine of IS20,000 on security charges.

NO TRAVEL FOR MP

Mousa Abu Ghoush, representative from the Ramallah district in the Jordanian Parliament, was barred by the Israeli military from travelling to Jordan to participate in the parliament sessions.

CLASSES AT NAJAH DISRUPTED

NABLUS — Studies at Najah

University were disrupted when the military set up roadblocks on the streets leading to the college and prevented students from reaching it.

March 29, 1984

THREE CARS SET ON FIRE

Three cars were arsoned in Beit Sahour and Ramallah. The cars are owned by Issa Atallah and a member of the Zaro family, according to Israel Radio.

FOOD PRICES UP 14 PERCENT

TEL AVIV — Prices of Israeli government-subsidised basic foodstuffs were raised by 14 percent.

US\$1 BILLION INVASION

TEL AVIV — More than US\$1 billion was spent on the war in Lebanon since Israel invaded it in 1982, Defence Minister Moshe Arens revealed, not including the indirect expenses of occupation of south Lebanon.

PRISONERS GET INCREASED SENTENCE

BEER SHEBA — Three political prisoners at Beer Sheba prison were given extra sentences on charges of attempting to kill a collaborator inside the prison in August of 1982.

CLUB ELECTIONS STOPPED

AL KHADR — Khadr athletic club was barred by the military from holding its annual elections scheduled for March 31.

CAMP DECLARED CLOSED AREA

TEL AVIV — Jericho residents were barred by the military from entering the deserted Nueimeh refugee camp for one year. The camp was declared a military area.

SENTENCED FOR INCITEMENT

JENIN — A Jenin youth, Kamal Ma'ani, was fined IS70,000 and given a one-year suspended sentence by a military court on charges of incitement.

COURT HEARING OF ISLAMIC GROUP POSTPONED

TEL AVIV — The trial of 12 youths from the Jerusalem area charged with membership in a local Islamic organisation and planning for military operations has been postponed till May 20.

The 12 detainees observed a two-day hunger strike Tuesday March 27 while in detention at the Moscoviyya detention centre in Jerusalem in protest against their ill-treatment. They were arrested November 21, 1983.

SHOTS FIRED AT VILLAGE LEAGUE MEMBER

TEL AVIV — Shots were fired Wednesday night at the house of Bishara Qumsieh, head of the Bethlehem area Village League, an Israeli military spokesperson said. Reported by Israel Radio, the spokesperson said a leaflet was found near Qumsieh's house, in Beit Sahour, accusing him of treason. The Israeli-sponsored Village Leagues were dissolved last month because of their lack of local support.

Two cars belonging to a Beit Sahour resident and two cars in Dheisheh camp were reportedly set on fire.

TWO MONTHS FOR DEMO

BETHLEHEM — A Dheisheh camp resident, Fouad Attrash, was given a two-month prison term and fined IS20,000 after he was convicted by a Ramallah military court of charges of demonstration last year.

POLICE RAID AIN MAHEL AGAIN

AIN MAHEL — Nazareth police raided the house of Ahmad Habiballah under the pretext of searching for his son, Zakaria. The police searched the house and confiscated a picture of Yasir Arafat. Three members of the Habiballah family — Marwan, Ziad, and Khalid — were earlier arrested in the town.

FARMERS HARASSED

JERUSALEM — Farmers from Deir Dibwan paid heavy fines in order to get their sheep back from the military after they were confiscated from land owned by the farmers. Several sheep owners were recently targeted by the military and many lost part of their herds.

BEATEN AND RELEASED

JERUSALEM — Two youths from Beiteen, Ziad Ayyash Mustafa and Ahmad Rizq, were arrested by border guards March 22 after another person claimed they asked him to help them plant a suspicious object in a Ramallah centre. The two youths were beaten but later released.

after the soldiers found out that the person with the claim was mentally unstable.

BUS STATION SUIT

JERUSALEM — Two Hebron residents, Khairi and Kathem Nasser Eddin, filed suit at the Israeli High Court against a decision by the Israeli city council of Hebron to seize their land to build the city's bus station on it. The city council plans to build a new bus station to replace the old one it closed to use for building an Israeli settlement in its place.

March 30, 1984

20 NEW SETTLEMENTS IN WEST BANK

JERUSALEM — Al Quds said the Israeli government is planning to build 20 new settlements in the West Bank. It said work will start on 12 settlements before the next Knesset elections planned for July. Each settlement will have a minimum of 35 housing units and is expected to cost IS1.25 billion.

TRIAL OF POLICE OFFICER OPENED

TEL AVIV — Tel Aviv District Court heard witnesses in the case filed against Israeli police officer Moshe Biton that he tortured an Arab detainee at Fara's prison. The suit was filed by Walid A'arda, who spoke at the trial of the brutal torture he received from Biton while in detention last May. A'arda said he was beaten with a stick that had nails in it and given electric shocks. The court postponed the case until April 30.

HAKAWATI TO OPEN MAY 9

JERUSALEM — El-Hakawati theatre group will inaugurate its new arts center at the Nuzha Cinema May 9. The inauguration ceremonies, which will continue until May 14, will include several art performances and shows. Several Palestinian artists, here and abroad, have been invited to participate in the ceremonies.

GALILEE JEWS DO NOT LIKE ARABS

HAIFA — A survey of public

opinion by two Israeli professors found that the majority of Galilee Jews are hostile to the Arab citizens of that region. The survey showed that 72 percent want to prevent Arabs from becoming a majority in the Galilee; 57 percent support measures to encourage the Arabs to emigrate and 78 percent want more restrictions on Arabs.

EGYPT HOLDS ISRAELIS

TEL AVIV — Three Israelis are currently held at an Egyptian jail. The three were arrested near the disputed area of Tabu on the Israeli-Egyptian border, Israeli sources said. They added that the three Israelis were found in the Egyptian waters near Eilat in a fishing boat.

NO TRAVEL FOR PRIEST

JERUSALEM — A Fasuta pastor, Father Fawzi Khouri, was barred from leaving the country until September 30 on orders of the Israeli interior minister. Khouri is ordered to appear at the police station whenever he is summoned, in compliance with the Emergency Regulations.

Khouri earlier won a High Court decision giving him permission to travel unless he is charged within 120 days. This period ended last Thursday.

HANOUN OPPOSES SETTLEMENT

TULKARM — Mayor of Tulkarm Hilmi Hanoun said he opposes a new project planned at the military headquarters in Beit El to open a 100-metre-wide road that runs from Tulkarm city limits to Anabta. Hanoun said that according to the plan, several residents of Tulkarm, Anabta and neighbouring villages will lose their land to the road.

March 31, 1984

LEBANON WAR COSTS US\$800,000 A DAY

TEL AVIV — The war in Lebanon is costing Israel US\$800,000 a day, Mordechai Gur, member of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, said at a meeting here.

GATES PROTEST

NABLUS — Shopowners in Nab-



An Israeli policeman fishes for a Palestinian flag hung from a Beit Hanina electric cable, March 30. Two youths from Mghar near Tiberius were arrested March 27 for raising the Palestinian flag on an electricity pylon.

lus' al-Hussein Square petitioned Israel's defence minister to remove the iron gates separating the Old City of Nablus from the square. Similar messages were also sent to the military governors of the West Bank and Nablus. The merchants said the two iron gates are hurting their business.

CAR BURNT IN BEIT SAHOUR

BEIT SAHOUR — A car owned by a Beit Sahour resident was set ablaze while parked near the owner's house. Police were summoned and an investigation is underway.

COMMITTEE RULES IN FAVOUR OF ARAB FAMILY

JERUSALEM — The military objections committee ordered that land owned by Abu Sharar be returned to the family with the exception of a 40-dunum plot on which a settlement is built. The committee ordered the 40 remaining dunums returned to Abu Sharar once the army evacuates the settlement.

April 1, 1984 COURT STOPS DEMOLITION ORDER

Israel's High Court issued a temporary order stopping a military decision to demolish 40 houses in Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza. Lawyer Felicia Langer, representing the Jabalya residents, said Gaza's military governor ordered the refugees to leave their homes two months ago and move to a new housing project but the refugees refused.

On March 30, the residents received orders from the military to vacate their homes by Monday, April 2. The order said if they refuse they will be evicted by force and their houses demolished.

LAND FRAUD DEAL EXPOSED

JEEB — A land fraud deal was discovered that has to do with a piece of land near Giv'at Zeev settlement in the Arab village of Jeeb. The fraud was discovered when a settler bought the land through two real estate brokers. The brokers threatened the 65-year-old owner of the 45-dunum plot in question to force him to sign the sale papers but he refused.

Al-Mithaq Banned from Gaza

Israeli military authorities in the Gaza Strip banned *Al Mithaq* biweekly newspaper March 19. No reasons were given. Israeli soldiers raided the office of *Al Mithaq's* Gaza correspondent and distributor March 16. They arrested journalist Sualeiman Jadallah and confiscated all copies of the paper. He was released on bail the following day.

Two days later, the Israeli 'civil administration' informed the paper's owner, Mahmoud

Khatib, that the paper's distribution license was revoked, pending the appearance of the owner at the military governorate for questioning at the end of this month.

Al Mithaq newspaper, which was founded in 1980, obtained its latest distribution license for the Strip in October 1983. It was renewed verbally after three months.

The newspaper's owner's father, Ali Khatib, was co-owner of *Al Sha'ab* until he was deported in 1974.

Arens Abuses Weinberger to NYT

Moshe Arens, Israeli defence minister, bitterly attacked US Secretary of Defence Casper Weinberger and made racist slurs against Arabs in a conversation with a New York Times reporter while in the US last January, according to a report in that paper last week.

Arens reportedly told New York Times reporter Lucinda Franks, in the presence of her husband, a New York attorney, that Weinberger is "a prime candidate for psychoanalysis... you can hardly talk to him."

Speaking of Secretary of State George Shultz, Arens said

that after taking office "he realized that many of these people (Arabs) are crazy and cannot be trusted."

Arens has denied making the statements but Franks, her husband and her editor stand by the story.

AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS CHARGED WITH VIOLENCE AGAINST PALESTINIANS

Four new American immigrants to Israel were charged in the Jerusalem District Court March 26 with violence against Palestinians in Ramallah, Hebron and Jerusalem. They were remanded in custody until April 4.

The four, Meir Leibowitz, Hazan Levy, Yehuda Richter and

Yekutieli Godinsky, were charged with wounding six Arabs when they fired on a bus near Ramallah, with burning an Arab bus in Hebron and throwing petrol-bombs at Arab homes in Shufat and at *Al Fajr* offices.

According to the prosecution, all four are members of

Meir Kahane's Kach movement. A fifth person, Craig Laitner, who has turned state's evidence, is also said to be a member. He will be called as a prosecution witness and will be permitted to return to the US when he has given his evidence. (Reprint: The Jerusalem Post, March 27, 1984.)



Thirty thousand crowd Arrabeh village centre to mark Land Day March 30.

30,000 Crowd Arrabeh for Land Day Meet

An estimated 30,000 people gathered in a large square in the centre of the Galilee village of Arrabeh and listened to eleven speakers, Jews and Arabs, on Land Day. Three separate marches had converged to then form the meeting.

The largest march came from nearby Sakhnin. Marchers placed wreaths on the graves of the three villagers killed by Israeli forces on the first Land Day in 1976 before setting out. Marchers carried banners and placards, chanted nationalist slogans and sang patriotic songs.

The Palestinian demonstrators were unusually nervous, and tried to prevent foreign journalists and photographers from taking pictures. An Israeli TV crew member was jostled as he approached a partially disguised man carrying a Palestinian flag. Demonstrators said they suspected him of filming for the Israeli security service who, they said, wanted to collect evidence against flag raisers.

Many people commented on the rare absence of Israeli police and border guards in Pales-

tinian villages. Heads of local councils undertook to prevent anybody from raising illegal banners and flags in return for the removal of the Israeli forces.

The opening address was made by Mohammed Ibrhi Nassar, the head of the Arrabeh local council. He greeted the people and the participants and praised the "Unity and the well-organised popular meeting."

Mohammed Ghanayem, the head of Sakhnin local council, said "The blood of the martyrs will not go in vain, we will continue to struggle for the same message they sacrificed for." He added that the objective of the Israeli authorities "is not to take land but our expulsion from our homeland."

MK Tawfiq Toubi, deputy secretary of the Israeli Communist Party, pointed to the importance of the Land Day in "transferring the struggle of the Palestinian masses in Israel to a higher stage ... in defence of land and existence." He also stressed the importance of joint Arab-Jewish struggle against the "oppressive and discriminatory policies of the Israeli government."

Raja Khatib, the head of Deir Hanna local council, who spoke on behalf of the regional Committee for Defence of Land, outlined the activities of the committee since 1975 until now.

Mohammed Kiwan, a member of the regional Committee for the Defence of Land and one of the leaders of *Abna' al-Balad*, praised the role of the Committee in defending the lands of the Palestinians and which "adopted the highest permitted form of struggle, which is the strike."

On behalf of the Higher Islamic Committee, an unofficial organisation of Muslims struggling to regain control of waqf property, Mahmoud Na'ame spoke about the continued takeover of the Islamic waqf property by the Israeli authorities. He remarked that this property constitutes "One-sixteenth of the land in the state and its entire income goes to the Israeli treasury."

Other speakers, among whom was Uzi Borstein, general secretary of the Israeli Communist Party, and Latif Duri from Mapam, centred their speeches around the issue of land and the necessity of joint struggle between Arabs and Jews in Israel against the Likud and Israeli policy.

Twin Demos., Strike at Taibeh

In Taibeh, the Triangle, there were two demonstrations and a general strike. Both were attended by around 3000 people.

At 11:00 am *al-Nahda*, the local nationalist organisation, members and supporters rallied in the centre of the village after marching through its streets. Participants described the rally as lively. Speakers condemned Israel's policy of land confiscation and the oppression of Palestinians inside the 'green line' and in the occupied territories. *Al-Nahda*'s call for a strike in the village was totally supported.

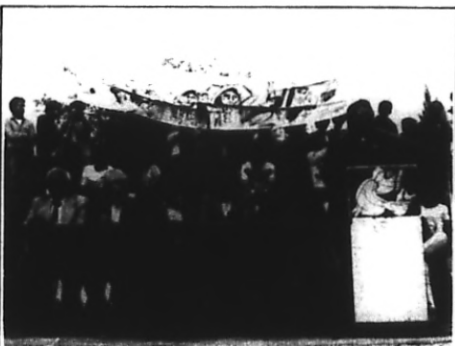
The official rally, organised by the Committee for the Defence of the Land, followed a second march. Protesters carried banners calling for an end to US aid to Israel, condemning the Sabra and Shatila massacres and the policies of minister without

portfolio Ariel Sharon.

A group of women demonstrators chanted a slogan in support of PLO Chairperson Yasir Arafat. Other slogans included: "From Beirut to Taibeh, One People One Struggle."

Speakers included Saliba Khamis, secretary of the Committee for the Defence of the Land, Hanan Jabarin of *al-Ansar*, Reverend Shehadeh Shehadeh, Chairperson of the CDL, MK Meir Wilner, for the Israeli Communist Party, Abd al-Halim Latif, mayor of Taibeh, Mohammed Masarwi, mayor of Kufr Qara' and MK Mohammed Watad, of Mapam. Labour MK Yossi Sarid was to have spoken but pulled out after a family bereavement.

There were no police or paramilitary in evidence in the village and observers said the demonstration was well-organised and peaceable.



In Taibeh: Saliba Khamis and Meir Wilner (Rakah), Mohammed Masarwi (Kufr Qara') and Shehadeh Shehadeh (Committee for the Defence of the Land).

Naqab Residents Rally at Rahat

The third official Land Day rally was held at the Naqab village of Rahat. The rally was chaired by Hussein Orah, a Communist Party activist and member of the local neighbourhood committees. He said the people of the Naqab "are celebrating Land Day in spite of police efforts to prevent them from doing so." Naqab residents proved they are part of the Palestinian people when they demonstrated against the Sabra and Shatila massacres and called for an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, he said.

The rally, sponsored by the Regional Committee for the Defence of the Land, was attend-

ed by student representatives of Beer Sheva and Hebrew Universities, Jewish activists and local residents.

The main speaker at the rally was Emil Touma, editor of *Al Ittihad*, the Communist Party daily. He warned that Arab lands in the Naqab, Galilee and Triangle are being expropriated and Judaized. Touma reminded the crowd that it was during the reign of the Labour Party that six Arab youths were shot dead by Israeli soldiers on March 30, 1976. He also said discriminatory laws were written during Labour rule.

"The immediate goals of the Committee to Defend the Land are to stop expropriation of land and repression and to return the land to its owners," he said, adding that the long-term goals are "to struggle until the Palestinian people wins its right to self-determination and Israel withdraws from Lebanon and the Arab territories occupied since 1967."

Democratic Front for Peace and Equality MK Charlie Biton also warned against attempts by Labour to lure Arab votes to its side. He said they will not hesitate to steal land. Biton concluded, "We will struggle without hesitation against land expropriation and discrimination."

Arrest Campaign Marks Land Day Eve

Stone-throwing, preventive arrests and travel restrictions marked the eve of Land Day March 28 and 29. On March 28, two military vehicles were stoned in Balata refugee camp near Nablus and Arroub refugee camp north of Hebron. Tyres were set alight and Palestinian flags were hoisted in Jalazon camp near Ramallah. On March 29, students of Ramallah did not attend their classes and stone-throwing incidents were reported in Am'ari refugee camp.

A wide campaign of arrests against young men aged from 15 to 20 was launched in the West Bank's 'trouble spots,' a label given to refugee camps. Patrols were stationed at refugee camp entrances.

In Nazareth, the magistrate court remanded three Palestinians from Ain Mahel village March 28 for one week on a prediction

by a police representative that the young men, arrested the previous day, would attempt to write "anti-security slogans and stone soldiers to mark the eighth anniversary of the Land Day."

The Committee for the Defence of the Land held a press conference March 28 in which they told reporters about Land Day plans and complained of pre-Land Day arrests.

The Israeli military governor in Gaza issued a military order March 28 preventing residents of the Gaza Strip from entering refugee camps on March 30 or 31. Those mentioned in the order were Abassan, Nuseirat and Jabalya camps. Residents of these camps were not banned, however, from leaving.

The Higher Committee for Voluntary Work in the West Bank and Gaza Strip issued a Land Day statement calling it

"an anniversary in which we express our adherence to the policy of the PLO and its national council resolutions. We remain strongly loyal to our land and will cultivate and protect it until the establishment of an independent Palestinian state."

